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THURSDAY, MAY 13TH, 2010

A political earthquake... BUT DID THE EARTH MOVE FOR ANYONE?

Alun Cairns celebrating his win at the Barry Leisure Centre with fellow Vale Conservatives.

Just what has changed in the Vale after last week's parliamentary election? PHILIP IRWIN looks at the aftermath of a drama that seems set to go on and on – at least at national level! (See page 9 for all the Vale election details).

IT WAS supposed to be a political earthquake – an upheaval that would leave the electoral landscape changed forever.

In the end, it was like one of those earthquakes that strike Stoke-on-Trent, or Wrexham. A few tiles fall off a few roofs. The odd chimney stack develops a crack. But in the main, nothing surprising has happened.

The Conservatives were expected to win in the Vale – and they did – but it was hardly a landslide.

At 2am in Barry Leisure Centre, after the results were announced, it was hard to tell from the body language whether the Tories or Labour had won.

The Conservatives had hoped for better, and Labour had feared much worse. As Labour's candidate, Alana Davies, admitted afterwards, the party feels that it has only one way to go from here, and suddenly a 4,000 majority doesn't seem that insuperable.

For the new MP, Alun Cairns, campaigning for the next election will start the moment he takes office. The comfortable cushion that a landslide would have given has been denied.

So, if the old blue and red rivals were each, in their way, content with the result, it was Plaid Cymru who were tearing their hair out (not literally).

The party is strong in the Vale, with six county councillors, a strong party machine and a recent spell in control of the Vale Council, in coalition with Labour and the Llantwit First Independents.

They did all the right things, selecting a candidate, Dr Ian Johnson, at an early stage, and he got to work, engaging with every local issue possible, and getting around the county borough meeting the electorate.

Contrast this with the Lib-Dems, who have no county councillors, no party machine to speak of, and a candidate, Eluned Parrott, who was selected late in the day.

Comparing Plaid in the Vale with the Lib-Dems is like comparing Aston Villa with Dagenham and Redbridge.

Yet, when it came to the count, Plaid's party machine counted for nothing. Eluned polled 7,403 (up from 6,140 in 2005), while Dr Ian polled a miserable 2,667 (up from 2,423).

A sign, it would appear, that the TV debates played a huge part in how people voted at local level. What makes the Lib-Dems performance even odder, however, is how they did in the neighbouring borough of Bridgend.

Everything Plaid is in the Vale applies to the Lib-Dems in Bridgend. There thay have six borough councillors, a party machine, and have even supplied the leader of the council in recent years – again in a coalition.

So what did all this organisation achieve? Amazingly, hardly anything. Their candidate, Wayne Morgan, started on 7.949 and pushed it all the way up to.... 8,658.

Back in the Vale, Ian Johnson's election agent, Coun Steffan Wiliam, felt that Plaid had been squeezed out of the debate by media coverage, which concentrated on the "presidential" TV debate between Cameron, Brown and Clegg.

He said; "In the end, I think Ian did well to increase both his total vote and his share of the vote.

"Ironically, I don't believe that many people even watched the debates all the way through. They took their lead from the TV and press reports which said Clegg had done well, and it became a self-fulfilling prophecy.

"When it comes to the next Welsh Assembly elections, things will be very different."

He was supported in this view by the Plaid AM Chris Franks, who said: "In an election which saw Plaid excluded from the main event of the UK campaign, the televised debates, party activists worked hard to take the message directly to as many people as they could on the doorstep.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

Ex-nurse who spiked drink of 12-year-old girl is jailed

Report by AJ SICLUNA

A former auxiliary nurse has received an extended sentence of nine years at Cardiff Crown Court for spiking a 12-year-old girl's soft drink with a banned date rape drug, and having possession of more than 600 pornographic images on his computer.

Judge Stephen Hopkins told Michael Andresen (36): "I view you not only as dangerous, but also evil."

Shortly before, Andresen had given evidence saying that when he had administered the drug, his intention had been only to touch the girl sexually, but said the judge, he concluded he was sure Andresen had intended to at least attempt to rape the girl if not actually rape her.

The only reason he didn't, he said, was because she became ill.

The judge said his intention was to have sex when he had stupified her.

"The facts of this case have been distressing and disturbing, every parent's worst nightmare."

The judge added that Andresen had had a sexual interest in the girl for some months and had "a deviant perverted interest" in child pornography.

The images found on his computer were "nauseating and sickening".

Andresen of Barry admitted administering a substance with intent to engage in sexual activity with the girl, making indecent photos of a child, possessing indecent photos of a child and possessing extreme pornographic images.

The sentence involves six years in custody with a further three years on licence. He was banned for life from working with children and ordered to register as a sex offender for life.

Prosecutor Tom Crowther said that last July he drove the girl to Thorpe Park. On the return journey, he stopped at a service station bought two soft drinks and into the girl's he dropped five rohypnol tablets.

The girl spotted them and soon after became dizzy and faint.

Andresen took her home and soon after she was taken to hospital and detained one night. The drink was later analysed.

Since the incident, said Mr Crowther, the girl had become upset at what happened and suffered nightmares.

On his computer were searches of websites with titles such as "jailbait" and "schoolgirl f...".

Andresen said he accepted he was a paedophile and that at the time of the offence felt dejected.

He had not intended, he said, having sex.

His counsel, Chris Evans, said: "There is little mitigation except his guilty plea. He is a loner and a law unto himself.

"His actions are difficult to explain. He realises he has problems which he needs to address."

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Let's all join the Blooming great Tea Party for hospice!

AS a long time supporter of Marie Curie Cancer Care and a passionate cake baker, may I ask your readers to join the charity's Blooming Great Tea Party celebrations this summer?

We're inviting people to hold their own tea parties any time between June 12 and July 12 to help raise money for the charity. Whether it's a garden party, afternoon tea or a simple gathering of friends for a cuppa, holding a Blooming Great Tea Party couldn't be simpler.

Every tea party, however big or small, will help more Marie Curie nurses to provide free care for terminally ill people in the Marie Curie Hospice at Penarth.

I do hope some of your readers are able to help us. To sign up for a free Blooming Great Tea Party fundraising pack bursting with fabulous ideas to help create the perfect party, call 08700 340 040, or visit: *www.mariecurie.org.uk/teaparty*

Jane Asher

Local talent shines in OXJAM display

WE have just returned from the wonderful OXJAM event at the Living Cafe in Cowbridge.

What an event it has been – with a constant stream of musicians and singers to entertain us, from classical to jazz to folk and blues; soloists, singer songwriters, instrumentalists, groups of all kinds.

We didn't realise what talent we had on our doorstep.

Special thanks go to David and Karen for working so hard on their day off to provide a venue where children and families are always made so welcome.

We came away from an event that we feel really brought a sense of community to Cowbridge. We can't wait for the next one.

Rob McGhee, Dinky Kennedy, Dave and Pam Owens (Cowbridge Transition)

Digital switchover no help for the planet...

AS GEM letter writer Mrs Coombes Herridge suggested recently, I have now installed a signal booster.

Plus after some research on the internet, I purchased a Philex signal strength meter for £6 from a well known internet site and found I needed to yank to the left, my loft-mounted aerial, to face approximately 60° north-east to obtain the strongest signal.

So far, fingers crossed and touch wood, problem solved.

I think these meters and signal boosters should have been supplied free!

Now I have three things plugged into the electricity supply to be able to view television programmes. So much for saving energy and the planet.

If I change my television for a new flat screen incorporating Freeview, can all those old televisions that are being discarded be recycled, or will they be filling up all the declining landfill sites?

James Wild, Llantwit Major

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'No regrets – the EU makes us stronger'

MR Gwyn John (GEM letters, May 6) says many people took no interest in the many treaties which the Westminster government signed up to in Europe – and now live to regret it.

Well, there are many of us who do not regret it.

Living in a community such as the EU makes us all much stronger in the world, and by the nature of 'a community', inevitably means sometimes taking a bit of rough with the smooth, for the good of the whole

The benefits of full participation by far outweigh the disadvantages

Some of these are workers' rights - which have been advanced substantially under a Labour government, right up to the tap water you drink and food safety, which all influence the quality of life for British people.

Also, in thousands of projects in cities, towns and villages in Wales, millions of pounds have been poured into skills training, transport and the redevelopment of old industrial sites - all of which has created invaluable jobs.

International action is the only way to protect the environment, as pollution knows no borders, and the criminals and terrorists don't respect borders, either.

The EU is the largest provider of humanitarian aid in the world, which any civilised country should be proud of. The list is endless.

So please, Mr John, don't speak for me and throw away the EU gains for the sake of MPs' backward-looking dogma.

Vivien Pernas, Llantwit Major

POSTAL BALLOTS:
'Clarification' note needs clarification!

WITH reference to the The GEM report dated Thursday, April 29, on postal voting:

I received the 'clarification note'. It contained the following sentence:

"*If you have not yet returned your postal voting pack please complete and return the above the amended postal voting statement along with your ballot paper in the envelope originally provided***".**

I think another clarification note is required!

John Andrew, Cowbridge

Digital switchover: EQUIPMENT IS OUT OF DATE?

I AM very interested to read that some readers are still having problems with the digital switchover.

My own niggling problems were easily overcome. My main problem is my equipment connected to my digital TV (new) HD ready.

I was recently in hospital when the digital changeover was taking place.

When I went to use my DVDR HD recorder in my bedroom, I could not record on the hard drive using VIDEO PLUS; after a long time I gave up and could not load the channels. This was working perfectly well before my hospital stay.

After trying to get in touch with the makers Philips, they informed me that I would not be able to use the VIDEO PLUS to record using the pin numbers published in the daily papers because VIDEO PLUS is an analogue system.

My question – is why are the pin numbers still being published and why are these DVDR hard drive recorders still available for sale?

Can any of your readers help me out and explain how I can overcome this problem, otherwise the equipment is redundant.

(Name and address supplied)

'White Farm' has to be preserved

I HAVE been notified by the head of planning at the Vale Council that the White Farm planning application will not be going before the planning committee until June at the earliest.

Therefore, the petition organised by the councillors of Gibbonsdown ward will have to be returned to me by the beginning of June by the latest.

The support so far from local residents has been amazing.

I would like take this opportunity to thank all the people who have made the effort to sign the petition, but also urge those supporters yet to sign to get a move on! Green spaces, like that provided by White Farm, foster a bond between the residents of estates like the Colcot and Gibbonsdown and their natural environment that surrounds them, thus producing happier communities.

These green spaces also provide a habitat for a variety of birds, animals, insects and other organisms, while also providing corridors and greenways to link habitats.

As we tarmac more and more open green space, we should keep in mind that we're losing more than just a few insignificant trees and shrubs…we're losing an important human resource.

Coun Rob Curtis, Barry

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 20)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
13 Thur	06.41	9.3	18.58	9.4
14 Fri	07.14	9.5	19.37	9.7
15 Sat	08.00	9.5	20.15	9.7
16 Sun	08.42	9.4	20.57	9.4
17 Mon	09.22	9.3	21.41	9.3
18 Tues	10.07	9.1	22.23	9.1
19 Wed	10.59	8.8	23.19	8.8
20 Thur	11.54	8.3		

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide tablespecific to their location.

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Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
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Mental Health Helpline:
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Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support - Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

CITIZENS' ADVICE

At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Drop in Mon-Fri (not Weds) 9.30am - 4.30am (Wed 11am-6pm); at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road 9.30am - 11.30am Mon and Fri. Telephone advice 0845 120 3756. *Further information www.adviceguide.org.uk*

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999.

Gas - Gas emergency number 0800 111999.

Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130.

Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 700111. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline, 01446 700111.

To report a fly tipping incident - 01446 700111.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

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VICTIM NOW FRIGHTENED TO GO OUT ALONE

Penarth woman's 'night of horror' at hands of a Halloween assailant

by AJ SICLUNA

A barmaid, employed in a pub at Penarth, endured a night of "real horror" when the landlord, with whom she was having a relationship, attacked and imprisoned her after she returned to her flat in the town.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that Mark Peers (49) had disguised himself with a horror Halloween mask.

His victim 45-year-old, Linda Harper, believed he had been trying to kill her.

Peers, who lived in the Bridgend area, was jailed for two years after pleading guilty to charges of causing actual bodily harm and false imprisonment.

Judge Nicholas Cooke told him: "Your intention was to terrify, and you achieved that in full, leaving her in fear of her life."

Prosecutor Hilary Roberts said the couple had had a two year relationship after meeting in the St Fagans Pub, Penarth where he was the landlord.

Last year, there was a fire there and Peers was seriously injured and hospitalised for two months.

On September 27, Peers went home to Bridgend and at about 10pm telephoned her and said he would see her the following day.

She closed up and walked home.

"Unknown to her he had travelled from Bridgend and got into the flat.

"As she walked into the living room she was confronted by Peers wearing the mask.

"She didn't know who he was and was horrified and terrified."

Mr Roberts said she was pinned down on a settee and Peers forced a plastic bag into her mouth.

She screamed: "Who are you?"

She said: "It seemed to go on for ages," but she then recognised the defendant's shoes.

Mr Roberts said she told him: "Mark, it's you; for God's sake, what are you doing?"

She added: "You are taking me from my children and grandchildren. I love you, Mark."

He began crying and said: "I thought you were going to leave me."

She telephoned her daughters and he told them: "I was only going to frighten her."

She suffered scrams and scratches to the face, swollen lips, sore ribs and some hair had been pulled out.

When arrested Peers accepted all he had done.

In a personal impact statement, she said she had become a prisoner herself and had had to leave home.

She stated that she had lost her job, her independence had gone and she could not go anywhere alone.

All rooms and cupboards in her home had to be checked and she couldn't sleep.

"I relive that night over and over."

The person she trusted was the one responsible.

She added: "I now trust no one and am always on my guard."

She suffered post traumatic stress disorder and panic attacks.

She also stated " I don't know when I am going to get my life back, if ever."

She said Peers had planned everything and she wanted everyone to know what he had done.

She also said: "There's no doubt in my mind he was trying to kill me."

It was, she said, a night of "real horror".

Peers' counsel, David Webster, said: "What happened that night is not challenged. He said it was his fear of losing her which led him to behave in the way he did."

At the time, said Mr Webster, he had experienced irrational thought processes.

"He had a sincere and genuine affection for the lady he harmed."

The judge imposed an indefinite restraining order.

Alf Jackson demonstrates his musicianship on the keyboard at his home in Llantwit Major.

Alf wows Blackpool with his Wurlitzer skills..!

by TIM CHAPMAN

AN 89-year-old former 'Desert Rat' has realised the ambition of a lifetime and played the world famous Wurlitzer at the Blackpool Tower Ballroom.

Alf Jackson told The GEM: "I played the organ for over an hour and the sound was wonderful."

Alf is one of the oldest people to play the Wurlitzer and the session was a birthday gift from his daughter Ellie, who got married the next day at Blackpool Tower at a height of 380 feet!

As Alf rose from the orchestra pit at the console of the Blackpool Wurlitzer, he chose a suitable song to kick off with.

"I started with Cliff Richard's 'Congratulations' to mark Ellie's big day – the next day – with her husband-to-be Bryan Swallow, then launched into dance tunes, tangos and fox trots."

Alf, who served with General Montgomery in North Africa and Italy in the Second World War, has always been a dab hand at the keyboard.

"I've been an organist, pianist, keyboardist and accordion player.

"After the war, I played with a band at British Oxygen – we had another accordion player, a drummer, a double bass player and a pianist."

Alf played semi-professionally around the working men's clubs of Putney, Hammersmith and Fulham in his native London.

He moved to Llantwit Major 18 years ago and for many years he and his wife Muriel helped to run tea dances at Barry's Memorial Hall, with Alf sometimes accompanying the participants on the large Christie organ.

"The organ has left Barry in the last few weeks – it was beautiful and a bit bigger than the one in Blackpool.

"The Wurlitzer in Blackpool has a gorgeous sound though – I was one of the oldest people ever to play it.

"The management there said there had been a couple of people aged 90 who had played it, but added that they hadn't played like me, meaning, I think, that I did quite well."

Throughout his musical career, Alf has played more than 30 cinema and theatre keyboards, the biggest being a privately-owned organ taken from the Empire, Leicester Square, which has four keyboards and 21 ranks of pipes. At 89 his hands still fly across the keys.

The day after his ballroom performance, Alf accompanied Ellie to her wedding at Blackpool Tower in a shiny black and burgundy 1929 Hupmobile, with running boards and wooden wheels.

Blackpool registrar, David Hill agreed that the registrar's table could be located on the 'Walk of Faith', a five-inch-thick sheet of glass on which the bravest visitors stand to look down at the tower's bright red iron and steel girders,

Alf said: "It was lovely day and the views both inland and out to see went on for miles."

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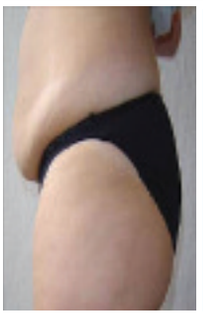

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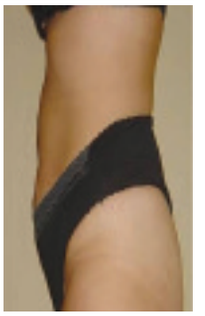

SEMI PERMANENT MAKEUP
Lasts up to 3 - 5 years – eyeliner, lipliner and eyebrows which looks like hair, by Qualified Teacher
TATTOO REMOVAL, all colours removed
* WRINKLE RELAXING TREATMENTS * SCARS * STRETCHMARKS
* SKIN TAGS REMOVED * PIGMENTATION * AGE SPOTS
THREAD VEINS ON THE FACE AND LEGS REMOVED
* PEELS * MICRODERMABRASIONS * ELECTROLYSIS AND IPL PERMANENT HAIR REMOVAL
ALSO SKIN REJUVENATION BY IPL
Replaneé
*WRINKLE REMOVAL
Safe and Natural Fill-out age-relaged **wrinkles,** skin folding also to fill-out lips
WAXING HALF PRICE
TRAINING ALSO AVAILABLE (START A NEW BUSINESS OR ADD TO EXISTING ONE)

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Finnegans Restaurant
NEW MENU now available
Served 12.00 noon - 7.00 pm everyday
Fresh Seafood
Mussels, Bream, Lemon Sole, Red Snapper,
Pan Fried Sardines, Devilled Mackerel, Plaice etc. - Changes daily.
SUNDAY LUNCH CARVERY
12.00 noon - 4.00 pm
Choice of meats and help yourself to our self service fresh vegetables, roast potatoes, Yorkshires, etc. only £5.99
ENJOY AL FRESCO DINING OR A COOL DRINK IN OUR PRETTY BEER GARDEN

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Telephone: 07842 243540

GREAT FUN DAY AT DINAS POWYS FOOTBALL CLUB

LAST SUNDAY saw more than 150 mums, dads and mini football players running around Bryn-y Don playing fields trying to find the answer to more than 20 questions - or possibly 19 as one mysteriously disappeared!

People were invited to beat the goalie

When the sheets were all marked there were four winners.

Congratulations to Tom Burge, Jack Davies, Dan Jones and a team of three from the under-9s, who were duly presented with winners medallions.

Arriving back at the Murch playing fields, entertainment was provided by four very brave first team players in Barry Pappin, Rhodri Foote, Gareth Shaw and Dan Jose.

Beat the goalie for the minis and beat the keeper for the adults, all magnificently organised by Lee Saunders, manager of the under-8s, was a very popular attraction.

Adults and minis fought for who could throw a wellie the furthest, while the stocks saw many excited, wet children along with some very competitive minis in the sack races.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the duck race, organised by Becky Jones, Will Doran's duck coming in first.

A magnificent BBQ was sweated over by Paul Vindini from the supporters section of the club, and club president Vince Driscoll.

Other refreshments were provided by Gareth Musgrove and Dave Jose, chairman and vice chairman of the club,

Naturally, the finale was the 'tug-o-war', with the ladies showing the men how it's done properly.

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the afternoon, as profit of over £500 was made.

JC

Friends and Neighbours

FRIENDS and Neighbours, a senior citizen group, held their April meeting at the Senior Health Shop in Holton Road (Age Concern) with an informative talk from the Community Police and Owls for U.

Refreshments were served following the talk. The next meeting will be held on May 19 at 2pm, when there will be advice on hand from the South Wales Fire Service.

New members are welcome to join this friendly group.

Further information is available from the secretary Gay Fifield (01446 400044).

PACT meeting

CADOC PACT, Palmerston Community Centre on May 12 at 7pm.

Castleland PACT, Civic Offices, Holton Road on May 24 at 7pm.

Illtyd PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel on May 25 at 7pm.

Gibbonsdown PACT, Communities First Office, Aberaeron Close on May 26 at 3pm.

Court PACT, The Scout Hall, Illminster Street on May 27 at 7:30pm

Pendoylan Community Council meeting, Pendoylan School, May 13 at 7.45pm.

Plymouth PACT, Brockhill Way, next to the Spar, on May 20 between 2pm and 4pm.

Stanwell PACT, Stanwell Comprehensive School on May 28 at 7pm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Council advice surgery

THE Labour Vale and town councillors for Castleland ward, Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake and Karl Kuhnell will be holding a surgery on Saturday May 15, from 10.30am to 12pm in the Drop-In-Centre No3 Dunlin Court, Thompson Street Estate, Barry.

No appointment necessary.

Contact Coun Chris Elmore on 07867 506 116.

Rhoose bingo

THE management committee of Rhoose Community Hall in Stewart Road is holding another fundraising bingo afternoon on Saturday May 15 at 2.30pm.

All proceeds go towards the running of the hall. All welcome.

Rhoose man's triathlon series for cancer research

ABOVE: Simon with son Tomos and daughter Nia.

A RHOOSE man is in training to tackle the London Triathlon and raise money for Macmillan Cancer Research.

Simon Parry, who was inspired to run after his brother was diagnosed with testicular cancer, is taking the challenge seriously, and has already competed in two warm up events.

Simon told The GEM: "My brother had, and then recovered from, testicular cancer so, to pay my respects to his determination, and to say thanks to Macmillan for their invaluable help to him, I've been collecting money on their behalf.

"The Monmouth triathlon was my first race in a three-race build up to the ITU London Triathlon, which will be the full Olympic distance in Canary Wharf in August."

The Olympic distance is a 1.5km open water swim, a 40km bike and a 10km run.

Simon added: "I took part in the Cardiff Triathlon on May 2, and came 21st out of 120. I was pleased, because most of those in the top 20 were younger than me.

"The next stage of my preparation will be the Mumbles Long Sprint Triathlon on June 26."

Simon concluded: "So far, with the generosity and support of friends and family, I have raised almost £500.

"If anyone would like to help Macmillan, you can pledge money at the completely secure and free just-giving site - www.justgiving.com/simon-a-parry"

NEWS FROM HOLTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pupils bid a fond farewell to Mrs Griffiths on their storybook day

RIGHT: Mrs Moggridge cuts the ribbon.

CHILDREN at Holton Primary School were invited to dress up as their favourite storybook character to celebrate our annual storybook day.

During the day, the children visited different classrooms and took part in a variety of reading activities. Pupils also brought into school their favourite books to share with their classmates.

A visiting storyteller and poet came along to entertain the children with riddles, rhymes, stories and songs in both Welsh and English.

The school's refurbished junior library was also officially opened during the day by Mrs Moggridge, the school's literacy specialist and members of the 'Friends of Holton Association'.

The school would like to thank the PTA for providing funding towards this refurbishment.

The school also wished Ms Griffiths, one of the year-4 junior teachers, a happy retirement after 20 years loyal service at Holton.

AG

ABOVE: Mrs Griffiths' class wish her a happy retirement.

PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB NEWS

THE FLEXIBILITY OF SPREADSHEETS

LABOUR-SAVING devices in the home have been developed over many years. One, however, seems to have been overlooked by many people: the not-so-humble spreadsheet on their computers.

Ceri reminded us of what they can be used for and how much work they can save. This was done by explaining the way they work and showing how easily one can be set up.

They can be used to list a collection of items such as books; DVDs; foreign stamps or whatever you want to list. If you want to use numbers, it can add or subtract, multiply or divide them in any way you choose.

Spreadsheets were invented to help with the calculation of numbers. They are fast, accurate, tireless and never get bored, no matter how mundane or repetitive the work.

A spreadsheet can be a single page (worksheet) that is divided into more than 16,000,000 boxes (cells) that are stacked into 256 columns (A,B,C,D,E,F) and more than 65,000 rows (1,2,3,4,5...) to form a grid (you do not have to use all of them!).

Each cell is identified by its column and row number, so the first cell will be A1 indicating it is in column A and row 1.

Information can be stored in any cell in the form of a number, text, date or instruction. What is more, it can be arranged in numerical, alphabetical or date order if you wish.

The real power of the spreadsheet is its ability to store instructions to do things to the contents of selected cells and display the answer.

A simple instruction would be (to display the answer of) multiplying the contents of one cell by the contents of another cell.

There is practically no limit to how complicated an instruction you could construct; but for more complicated ones, the spreadsheet has a large range of pre-formed instructions (functions) ready for you to use. There are groups of functions related to databases; date and time; engineering; finance; mathematics and more

To save writing the same instruction many times, there are effortless procedures for copying instructions from one cell to many others so that a spreadsheet can be created very quickly.

For easier reading of a large array of numbers there are facilities to modify the appearance of cells by selecting different lettering size, style or colour.

Similarly, it is easy to apply lines to cell borders as well as background colours or shading - all in a selection of styles.

Ceri then gave a quick demonstration of converting the information from groups of cells into customisable charts for ease of reading.

She also showed that it was possible to tell the spreadsheet to filter the contents to list all the numbers from a group of cells that meet a certain rule; such as between 50 and 120.

Once you become familiar with the basics of a spreadsheet there are many more features that can be brought into use. No matter how complex a spreadsheet you might eventually construct, there will be many labour-saving ways available to do so quickly and easily.

HOWARD DESMOND

Headteacher warns against development on the playing fields

THE headmaster of a school in Barry has said he hopes that the Vale Council "will explore other viable options" in siting a Welsh medium primary school – rather than using the Port Road playing fields.

The playing fields are used by Barry Comprehensive School and Ysgol Bro Morgannwg

Mr David Swallow, the headmaster of Barry Comprehensive School, said: "The Vale Council would have to take the whole of the playing field between Port Road and the Cwm Talwg Estate away from the existing secondary schools.

"It is a very important shared resource and provides a safe route to schools and an important amenity for local residents.

"Development on this site would also add pressure on a dangerous main road and junction that has been the location for several road accidents involving school children.

"The Vale envisages 3,000 pupils of all ages sharing a site with only two entrances – both off busy and congested main roads."

The issue was discussed at a meeting held at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and attended by residents and the parents of pupils.

Mr Swallow told The GEM: "We were delighted that so many people attended the public meeting and at the very positive response.

"The objections raised to the development were considerable, both from local residents and the parents of pupils attending a number of local schools. We are hoping that the education department and council members explore other viable options."

Paula Ham, head of strategic planning and performance at the Vale Council, said: "Contrary to reducing the playing fields available to the schools, this proposal will actually increase the overall area of playing fields.

"At the public consultation meeting held on April 27 the council stressed that the proposed Welsh Medium Primary School would only take up a small percentage of the playing fields referred to by Mr Swallow. The proposal also includes the provision of a new playing field in place of a large area of land which is currently overgrown and usable.

"Assurances were given at the meeting that access to Barry Comprehensive School across the school field would be retained and that options for improving this route will be looked at.

"The cabinet will consider the consultation responses to this and alternative options at its meeting on May 19."

Summer skittles

Barry Dockers Club will once again be holding their annual summer skittles tournament.

First prize is £1000, entry is £10 per team, entry forms are available from the Dockers Club.

The competition is played in a league format and will commence the first week in June.

Pupils hunt for 'bog baby'

HAWTHORN Primary School reception and year one classes recently joined the rangers at Porthkerry Country Park - to hunt for an elusive creature the bog baby!

"Their trip was inspired by a wonderful book, 'The Bog Baby', by Jeanne Willis and illustrated by Gwen Millward. The book tells the story of two small sisters who go fishing in a magic pond and discover something much better than a frog or a newt – a bog baby," a spokeswoman explained.

"The book teaches the children, in a simple but beautiful way, the importance of looking after the environment and leaving wild animals in their natural habitat."

CINEMA BATTLE WILL GO ON

MANY thanks to The GEM for covering the recent Theatre Royal cinema centenary exhibition which was held at Cadoxton's Victoria Park.

It was well attended over its four weeks duration, with people visiting from as far as Shrewsbury and Twickenham.

The comments book revealed how much this cinema is missed by the community and acts as a clear indication that this is a much-needed facility, which will continue to be fought for by the Save Our Cinema Association (SOCA).

The exhibition will next be presented in the Barry Library, King Square, during normal opening hours from Monday, June 28 to Saturday, July 10.

A return visit to the Victoria Park venue will hopefully be scheduled for later in the year.

P Sutton, Barry
(On behalf of Save Our Cinema Association)

Cat owner's shock at vicious dog attack

A YOUNG family in Barry have been left in a state of shock after an out-of-control dog killed their pet cat in a lane at the back of their house.

The incident happened at between 10am and 10.30am on Saturday, May 11 along Lovers Lane a route to Porthkerry Park.

Mum of three Claire Gibbs told The GEM: "We had three cats Monty and Max, who were brothers that we got from RSPCA Rescue, and who had ginger and white colouring, and Dizzy, a tortoise shell cat.

"On Saturday morning, I let them all out as usual at about 9.30am. Then I went into Cardiff.

"Later on, I got a call on my mobile from a lady who was walking her dogs and had found Max. She said he was dead and it looked like he had been attacked by a dog. She said he had bite marks and was still warm."

Claire, who lives in Westward Rise, alerted her husband to what had happened, and headed home.

She reported the incident to the police who advised her to take him to the vet to ascertain exactly what had happened.

"I took him the the vet's on Tynewydd Road and she confirmed lacerations and punctures to the leg, and also a puncture to the lung that was deep, causing internal bleeding which killed him. She confirmed that a dog was responsible.

"We buried Max in the garden. My daughters, who are five, eight and 10, are distraught at what has happened, terribly upset."

Claire said that the police have told her that the dog should have been under control, and that if more details come to light they will investigate further.

She insisted: "I know dogs chase cats, but more often than not they give up the chase. It is possible he was cornered by two dogs and couldn't escape.

"Whatever happened, the fact is the dog responsible should have been kept under control.

"Monty, the other cat, may have seen what happened. He isn't purring and is off his food. I want to warn other cat owners as to what this dog has done."

If anyone does have more information about the incident, Claire can be contacted on 07890 769 581.

PLAID MAN'S THANK YOU

AS the Plaid Cymru candidate in last week's general election, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who used their democratic right and voted in the election.

Participation in the democratic process is hugely important and it was good to see an increase in the turnout here in the Vale.

From my own experience, it was a hard-fought but pleasant campaign, rightfully fought on policies and issues rather than personality politics.

As a Barry boy myself, the Vale of Glamorgan is a special place, and in offering my warm congratulations to Alun Cairns on his success, I hope that as the successful Conservative candidate, he treats voters here with the respect that they deserve.

Dr Ian Johnson, Barry
(Plaid Cymru candidate for the Vale of Glamorgan)

SEE PAGE 9 FOR FULL ELECTION COVERAGE

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We also deliver to Sully/Dinas Powys/Wenvoe /Rhoose
(Ask about minimum orders & charges)

CHEF'S TASTERS OF THE MONTH
Karahi Murgh Kofta (New) £6.50
Slow cooked marinated chicken with Royal's unique fresh spices and herbs in a medium sauce.
Goa Green Chicken £5.50
Tandoori chicken cubed in a variety of fresh green herbs and spices, peas, green chillies and green beans.
Chingri Karahi (New) £7.95
Pan tossed king prawns cooked in a medium spiced moist sauce with garlic, ginger and coriander.
Tropical Balti (New) £5.95
Chicken, lamb and prawns, cooked with spinach.
Chicken/Lamb Shatkora £5.95
Bangladeshi citrus lemon fruit bringing a tangy taste to its dish cooked with fresh spices.
Chingri Shashlik (New) £7.50
Sizzling king prawns from the tandoor in herb spices with onions, peppers and tomatoes.

★★★ SPECIAL OFFER ★★★
FREE PAPADOMS
FREE ONION SALAD
FREE MANGO CHUTNEY
with all orders over £15
This offer is not valid in conjunction with other offers or discounts

BUSINESS HOURS:
Sunday - Thursday 5.00pm - 11.00pm
Friday - Saturday 5.00pm -12.00am

APPETISERS OF THE MONTH
Chingari Jhinga)) £3.75
King prawns cooked wih a combination of chillies, roasted garlic and lemon.
Chingari Poori (New) £3.95
Marinated king prawns with fresh spices, wrapped in a thin crust fried poori.
Chilli Panneer)) £2.25
Cubed Indian soft cheese in olive oil, spiced with red chilli paste, garlic and ginger.
Sheesh Poori (New) £3.25
Mince lamb kebab with barbecue topping in a tortilla wrap.

ROYAL UNIQUE DISHES
Royal Balti Special (New) .. £6.95
Grilled chicken breast, stuffed with mince lamb, fresh garlic and chilli sauce with caramelized onion, served with naan bread.
Royal Special Biryani (New) £7.50
Cubed chicken breast, stuffed with mince lamb, served with Royal Balti unique sauce.
Royal Special Side Dish (New) £2.50
Fresh spinach with cubed Indian cheese, mixed with spicy potato and chick peas.

CHEF'S SPECIALITY (HOT & SPICY)
Chicken/Lamb Rezala (New))) . £6.50
Tender chicken or lamb cooked with chef's special grounded spices, mixed in with a garlic, chilli sauce and rose water.
Naga Jaipuri (New))) £5.95
Tender chicken or lamb slow cooked with freshly grounded spices in a jaipuri style with fresh naga chilli.
Laal Maas)) £5.95
A rajastani speciality, slow cooked tender lamb in a clove, garlic and chilli sauce.
Mirchi Masala)) £5.95
Cubed chicken tikka, cooked in a red chilli and tomato sauce.

£5 CASHBACK
ON ORDERS OVER £20
DELIVERY OR COLLECTION
Terms & conditions:
• Only one voucher per order.
• This voucher may not be used in conjunction with any other offer.
• Voucher must be presented.
• Please mention voucher when ordering.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS WEEK'S AMAZING HOT OFFERS!

★SPECIAL OFFER★
ANY 2 CURRIES (value £5.95)
ANY 2 RICE
FREE PAPADOMS
ONLY £10
Sunday - Thursday Only
This offer is not valid in conjunction with other offers or discounts

ROYAL FOR 1
1 Appetiser (up to value of £2.75)
1 Main Dish (up to value of £5.95)
Any 1 Rice
Any 1 Nan Bread
1 Papadom
ONLY £8.95
This offer is not valid in conjunction with other offers or discounts

ROYAL FOR 2
SAVE OVER £8
2 Appetisers (up to value of £2.75)
2 Main Dishes (up to value of £5.95)
2 Pulao Rice
1 Plain Nan Bread
1 Side Dish
2 Papadoms
1 Onion Salad
1 Mango Chutney
FREE 2 cans of coke on collection
ONLY £17.95
This offer is not valid in conjunction with other offers or discounts

ROYAL SPECIAL FEAST
2 Appetisers (up to value £2.75)
2 Main Dish (up to value £5.95)
Any 2 Rice
Any 1 Nan Bread
2 Papadoms
1 Onion Chutney
1 Mango Chutney
FREE 1.5 ltr Bottle of coke
ONLY £15.95
This offer is not valid in conjunction with other offers or discounts

APPETISERS
Served with fresh salad and mint sauce
Sheek Kebab £2.40
Chicken Tikka £2.60
Mugh-Chat-Puree £3.25
Jhinga Til Bhaja £4.25
Chicken Pakora £2.70
Mixed Tandoori £2.90
Lamb Samosa £1.80
Machli Kebab £2.75
Chicken Chaat £2.70
Royal Platter - For Two £5.75
Chicken Pakora, Sheek Kebab, Onion Bhajis & Samosas

APPETISERS - VEGETARIAN
Served with fresh salad and mint sauce
Aloo chops (V) £1.95
Samosa (V) £1.80
Onion Bhaji (V) £1.80
Aloo Chat (V) £2.10
Sabzi Platter - For Two (V) £5.25
Comprising Aloo chops, Paneer Pakora, Samosas & Onion Bhajis

NEW! ROYAL UNIQUE DISHES
Royal Balti Special £6.95
Chicken or Lamb Pathila £5.95
Garlic Chicken Tikka Massala .. £5.95
Gost Kata Masala £5.95

SPECIALITIES
Jhinga Zafrani (N) £8.50
Murgh Mussallam (N) £6.50
Garlic Chilli Chicken)) £5.95
Maharaja Bhuna £5.95
Murgh Handi Lazeez (N) £5.95

BALTI DISHES
Prepared in an Indian Wok style with fresh garlic, ginger and tomatoes in a spicy aromatic sauce.
Balti Chicken or Lamb £4.95
Balti Chicken Tikka £5.50
Balti King Prawns £7.50
Baltis with extras of your choice, please add 60p; Mushrooms/Spinach/ Mixed Vegetables/Potatoes

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS
Chicken Tikka Masala (N) £5.50
Chicken or Lamb Jhalfrizi)) £5.50
Chicken or Lamb Pasanda (N) ... £5.75
Murgh Makhani (N) £5.75
Laal Maas)) £5.95
Nizami Handi £5.95

BIRYANI DISHES
Chicken Biryani £5.75
Lamb Biryani £5.75
Tandoori Chicken Biryani £6.75
Vegetable Biryani (V) £4.75
Maharaja Biryani £7.50
Laziza Biryani £6.95

VEGETARIAN
Balti Vegetables (V) £3.95
Miloni Sabzi Handi (V) £3.95
Subzi Masala (N) (V) £4.25
Subzi Paneer Jalfrezi)) (V) £4.50
Paneer Pasanda (N) (V) £4.50

TANDOORI DISHES
Served with fresh salad and mint sauce
Tandoori Chicken (half) £5.50
Tandoori Duck £5.95
Chicken Tikka £5.50
Tandoori King Prawns £7.75
Tandoori Platter £7.50
Tandoori Shashlik £6.50

CLASSIC FAVOURITES
Choose from chicken, lamb or prawns
Chicken Tikka extra 75p
King Prawns extra £2.50
Korma (N) £4.75
Rogan Josh £4.75
Sag £4.75
Pathia)) £4.75
Dansak)) £4.75
Bhuna £4.75
Dopiaza £4.75
Madras)) £4.75

SIDE DISHES
Sag Paneer (V) £2.25
Aloo-Gobi or Sag-Aloo (V) £2.10
Brinjal or Sag Bhajee (V) £2.10
Mushroom or Bhendi Bhajee (V) £2.10
Zeera Aloo or Chana Masala (V) £2.10
Daal Tarka £2.10
Chips £1.25

RICE & BREADS
Pulao Rice £1.75
Rice £1.55
Mushroom or Special Pulao £2.20
Keema Pulao £2.20
Plain Naan £1.50
Peshwari Naan (N) £1.75
Cheese or Garlic Naan £1.75
Keema Naan £1.75
Tandoori Roti £1.25
Paratha £1.90
Chapati 90p

CONDIMENTS
Papadom 45p
Mixed Raitha £1.25
Fresh mixed salad £1.25
Chutney or Pickle 60p

) Chilli rating (N) Contains Nuts (V) Vegetarian

DINE IN COMFORT WITH ROYAL'S FRESHLY PREPARED INDIAN CUISINE!! PIPING HOT AND ON TIME!!

VE DAY REMEMBERED AT BARRY MEMORIAL HALL

Wreaths, standards, and a moving tribute to the fallen

The scene as the Royal British Legion standards are lowered at the Cenotaph in Barry

A remembrance service was held at the Cenotaph Barry Memorial Hall by members of the Barry branch (Royal British Legion) on Saturday, May 8, to commemorate the 65th anniversary of VE-Day, and to pay tribute to the fallen.

The short service was conducted by the Rev. Ken Iverson, chaplain to the Barry branch.

Wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph, with a bugler and air cadets of 372 squadron, Barry in attendance.

Mayor's warm praise for volunteers who run community centres

Coun Emlyn Williams hosted a reception for volunteers who run the country's community centres.

VALE volunteers who run 22 community centres were praised at a special reception hosted by a fellow volunteer, Vale Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams.

He leads by example as treasurer of Cwm Talwg Community Centre in Barry, and committee member of St Nicholas Community Centre.

A total of 12 centres were represented at the reception in the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall in Barry. Coun Williams said: "Without these individuals giving up their time to expertly run the centres, a large range of activities would not take place. I'd like to thank them all for the huge contribution they have made during the last year, which I know is much appreciated by local residents."

PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB NEWS

Digital Economy Act could affect the internet users

THE Digital Economy Bill I wrote about recently has now become the Digital Economy Act and has the force of law, and yes, it could affect you!

It is a current hot topic in the IT world because of the power it puts into the hands of Ministers to interfere with the operation of the Internet and control of the Web contents.

To get it into law at the end of this Parliament it was rushed through.

In the live debate there were 15 members in the chamber, mostly speaking against the Bill. Several admitted to a limited understanding of the contents. Yet miraculously hundreds of votes were cast at the division and the Bill was passed. It did not look like democracy in action and there have been many protests from IT users since.

Part of the Act is directed against the theft of copyright material. There is no doubt that a lot of music and software is being illegally downloaded and that the writers, singers and musicians are losing money as a result.

The law was designed not to catch an individual downloading the odd music file (illegal though that would be if was in copyright), but to tackle the commercial exploitation via the web over the Internet.

There are people who believe that if anything exists, they are entitled to have it for nothing. If they prevail then there will be no financial incentive to create and we will all be the poorer.

The law is intended (among other things) to protect copyright theft. Fair enough, except that it will be difficult if not impossible to stop it.

The problem is that the offending service could be offering wares from a web site on the other side of the globe. Closing it down would simply cause it to set up instantly somewhere else. The cost of monitoring unimaginable amounts of internet traffic and policing the system will be far greater than the offenders' costs of a simple relocation.

A desperate search is on to find a market model that will reward creativity in the modern technological age. Certainly there are enough savvy people out there to get around any measures devised by legislators who are less than expert in the technology they are trying to combat.

In the meantime there are serious concerns about the way in which powers could be used by Ministers without further resort to Parliament. If your internet access point was misused by anyone, you could lose it. A service could be blocked if it was thought that it might be misused in the future.

The law of unintended consequences is unlikely to take a holiday in this case. We might all agree with the intent, but the way it is happening does nothing to inspire confidence.

The next meeting is on Tuesday May 11 and will be a forum on organising and backing up files. Visitors and new members always welcome. For more information ring me on 029 20708439.

HOWARD DESMOND

'Lessons from the voting?'

In the Vale of Glamorgan electors did not have a British National Party (BNP) candidate, but elsewhere in Wales the BNP stood in 19 seats and in every case, surprisingly, outpolled the UKIP candidate.

The statistics reveal that over these 19 seats the BNP polled 23,088 votes - an average of 1215 per seat, with the highest, 1715 votes, in Swansea East.

Both UKIP and the BNP are anti-Europe, but the BNP is also for withdrawing from Afghanistan and, of course, is hard on immigration.

When will the main parties – and in particular Labour – deal with these issues in a way that the electorate can understand?

Christopher Short, Barry
(Founding chairman: Wales Anti-Apartheid Movement)

Ramblers on the trail of Amelia Earhart

RECENTLY 11 members of the Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers ventured further afield to Burry Port in west Wales in glorious spring weather.

At Burry Port we were joined by a local resident who made our numbers up to 12.

Burry Port was an area that none of the walkers had experienced before and is a gem for walkers and cyclists alike, even though it is only minutes outside Llanelli.

The port grew out of the trading of coal, limestone and iron when Thomas Kymer, owner of many mining operations laid primitive track ways to load barges on the Gwendraeth Fawr.

In 1832 a harbour was built at Burry Port even though there was no town or village in existence and it wasn't until 1850 that a town appeared around the new docks adjacent to Pembrey.

Another little known fact is that Amelia Earhart (the first woman to fly the Atlantic) on June 18, 1928 landed at Burry Port, having taken off from Newfoundland on the 17th along with her co-pilots Wilmer 'Bill' Stultz and Louis 'Slim' Gordon.

The group left the quay at Burry Port and proceeded to walk passing the dunes of Pembrey Burrows to Cefn Sidan Sands where the group enjoyed their first stop of the walk for a coffee break.

Leaving the beach behind us we crossed the Dunes and passed the busy dry ski slope which is part of the Pembrey Country Park and then on through Penybedd Wood where we enjoyed our break for lunch. Next we walked through the small hamlet Penybedd before passing through the Ffrwd Farm Mire Nature Reserve.

A long steep climb took us to the ridge (Mumbles Head) overlooking Burry Port which began to give several long sweeping views over the town, the river and the fine views of the Gower Pennisula.

Our descent took us down to Burry Port where we were made welcome at a local hostelry.

The day concluded at the Harbour where everyone enjoyed a sit down and a ice cream!

Gwenda Fitzpatrick

NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

From Bridgend to the sea, on a railway ramble...

RECENTLY, 10 walkers embarked at various locations to join Joy, Bracken and Bronte on the train for a railway ramble and, having reached Bridgend, they walked down Court Road, through Bridgend, and took the underpass that led them to a path beside the clean, fast-running River Ogmore.

From Newbridge Fields they went under the A48 through a copse carpeted with celandine and by meadow reached New Inn Bridge, or the dipping bridge - as it is locally known, where the farmers once pushed their sheep through the holes into the river for their annual dip.

A short road walk past a wood covered with wood anemones led them across fields to Ogmore Moor, where horses quietly grazed and the usual boggy meadows were almost completely dry.

The footbridge over the River Ewenny led them into Merthyr Mawr village, with its pretty thatched cottages and they paused at St Teilo's Church, where the graveyard was covered in pretty spring flowers, for morning coffee.

On the lane they were joined by various size horses with riders, all enjoying the lovely spring weather before crossing an old stone stile at Ton Farm and climbing slightly beside a field of healthy cows and calves.

Descending after another stone stile, they reached a sandy path and walked past the 'big dipper' the tallest dune in the Merthyr Mawr complex and the second tallest in Europe. From the ruins of Candleston Castle, once owned by the Cantaloupe family, they entered pretty wooded paths that led through the outer dunes to walk beside the River Ogmore as it makes its way to the sea.

At the Ogmore estuary, they turned west and walked across Traeth yr Afon where the tide was receding down the beach and eventually passing Black Rocks, they left the coast, joining a path across the edge of Newton Burrows and walked past Sandford's Well, where the well fills as the tide ebbs and empties as the tide comes in.

Making their way to Newton Green they sat on the benches in front of the 12th century St John's Church, founded by the Knights of the Order of St John of Jerusalem more than 800 years ago to enjoy their lunch.

Walking past the allotments at the rear of the church they joined paths through Newton to follow a sandy path strewn with primroses that led uphill and into woodland at the rear of Merthyr Mawr Warren, where the shaded paths through bluebell woods was heaven.

A road led them to Candleston Farm and into fields beside Coed Cwintin and its carpet of wood anemones, but still no wild garlic and across fields to Whitney Farm, with its banks of primroses.

Another short roadwalk led them into fields beside Merthyr Mawr House, where a tall tree had come crashing down and made a huge hole in the outer stone boundary wall. Then it was time to re-join the Ogmore River on its west bank and a long straight path through woods that have been turned into a nature reserve.

On the playing field near the leisure centre, there was a game of rugby in full swing, while on Newbridge field white clad figures were playing cricket.

After a short refreshment break the group made their way back to Bridgend station to enjoy their train ride home.

On May 15, meet 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 10-mile moderate walk at Ross-on-Wye; contact Terry/Val on 029 2070 6315.

On May 16, meet 10am at Cogan for a five-mile easy stroll at Radyr Woods and the Glamorgan Canal; contact Pam on 029 2021 9102.

On May 18, the second summer evening walk will leave the Blue Anchor car park at 7pm for a 3.5-mile easy walk at East Aberthaw Nature Reserve and the salt flats; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Barrivale Bridge Club elections

LEFT: Hilary Laurence and Mike Bond.

THE AGM of Barrivale Bridge Club was held on April 20 when the retiring committee was re-elected, with the addition of Celia Thomas, who takes on the role of club secretary.

The Bill Shore Trophy, for the annual handicap, was presented to Hilary Laurence by Mike Bond, club chairman.

Afterwards, those present celebrated the club's 23rd birthday with a glass of wine, birthday cake and a team event.

Results as follows: 1st, Dave Thomas, Tom Kendrick, Mark Roderick and Gerald Gould 38 IMPs; 2nd, Judith Owen, Mick Green, Noelle Bond, Denis Mottram and Mike Close 5 IMPs.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information, telephone 01446 733425. **MB**

Gang attacked a Cefn Glas man with a clawhammer

by AJ SICLUNA

A GANG of three invaded a house and were involved in giving the occupier a beating, it was stated at Cardiff Crown Court.

One of them used a claw hammer as a weapon, said prosecutor David Thomas, when they went to the house in the Cefn Glas area of Bridgend.

Two days earlier, two of them had attacked a man for no reason at Bridgend bus station.

Nathan Long, 18, Daniel Atkins, 20, and Jamie Joseph, 17, all from Bridgend, each admitted wounding Ken Cornelius with intent.

Long and Joseph had been convicted by Bridgend Magistrates of attempting to wound 33-year-old Gareth Rainbow with intent, and Joseph admitted racially abusing a police constable.

Long was sentenced to a total of six years in a young offender institution and Atkins received four years.

Joseph was sentenced to four-and-a-half years detention.

Judge Neil Bidder told the trio: "Mr Cornelius was attacked in his own home after it was invaded.

"Long actually wielded the hammer, but he also had a stanley knife."

The motive, said the Judge, was possibly to steal cannabis plants.

"It is a miracle that injuries were not more serious," the Judge added.

Mr Thomas said that on January 20, Long and Joseph were at Bridgend bus station. One of them appeared agitated and Mr Rainbow told him to calm down.

"He was then attacked by the two by being repeatedly punched and kicked.

"A witness, Robert Owen, described the attack as very brutal. He decided to intervene because he believed the victim could have been killed."

Mr Thomas said that a police officer who went to the scene was racially abused by Joseph, who later said he had drunk a litre of vodka.

Long confessed to taking valium and vodka.

They were released on bail and two days later, with Atkins and wearing hoodies, they went to the home of Mr Cornelius and gave him a beating. He suffered cuts which needed stitches and glueing.

Outside the house, the police found bloodstains, the claw hammer, a screwdriver and a hacksaw,

Ieuan Morris for Long said: "He has gone completely off the rails. Sadly, violence on the streets of towns in south Wales is well-known. In the incident involving Mr Cornelius, there was some kind of fued."

Liz Pearson, for Atkins, said: "There has been an element of remorse. His offending was due to alcohol and drugs."

Byron Broadstock, for Joseph, said he had had an extremely erratic childhood and the attack on Mr Cornelius was "idiotic".

WRITE IN!

We welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

Woman bitten by abusive partner

by AJ SICLUNA

A WOMAN who shared a house with her partner in Pontycymmer was the victim of an "abusive relationship" said Mr Justice John Griffith Williams at Cardiff Crown Court.

At one point, John Clift, 31, threatened to slit the throat of Nadia Price, and on another occasion, he bit her nose and punched her eight or 10 times, said prosecutor Robert Ace.

He received an extended sentence involving four years' imprisonment and he will be on licence for an additional year.

The judge said the evidence was that Clift represented a high risk of causing the public serious harm, particularly to any future partner.

Mr Ace said that after one attack, Ms Price told Clift their relationship was over. He took a knife from the kitchen and waved it over her and then put it to her throat for two or three minutes.

He began stabbing it towards her and it went into her thigh causing a two centimetre deep wound.

Clift said he would kill himself if she left but the violence continued. He even asked her to marry him, said Mr Ace.

During one attack, she was punched to the head and had her nose bitten.

Clift was said to have convictions for affray, having a bladed article, assault, causing actual bodly harm, and harassment.

Peter Harding-Roberts, defending, said: "He needs assistance to address his problems. Domestic violence can never be justified."

The Judge imposed a restraining order.

CCTV aids five arrests

CCTV, working under the umbrella of the Safer Vale Partnership, assisted with five arrests in the week ending May 9 in Barry.

It contacted police on 17 occasions, with four arrests involving vehicle interference on Thompson Street (May 3).

An additional arrest for public order was made at Park Crescent on May 803.

Eco-friendly school has a celebration

Picture by JOHN O'BEIRNE

THE Eco committee at St Helen's Junior School, Barry held an action day to celebrate the school becoming a more environmentally aware and friendly place.

A spokesperson reported: "The pupils and staff wore blue and green to represent the earth; they also wore a bright item and made lanterns to prepare for the Earth Hour event at lunchtime when everything electrical was switched off.

"The children watched a performance by the Informed Theatre Company about sustainability, reducing, reusing and recycling."

The schools Eco co-ordinator, Mrs Hughes said: "We had a great day learning about the effects of climate change and everyone made a pledge of how they can make our planet a healthier and more eco-friendly place to be."

Mayor's charity ball

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Howard Hamilton and Mayoress, Mrs Carol Hamilton, thank all those who attended the Mayor's charity Ball, held in the Memorial Hall and Theatre on Friday, April 16.

The Mayor and Mayoress would also like to take the opportunity of thanking all organisations, councillors and members of the public who made a donation towards the charity ball.

The evening was enjoyed with good food provided by B & T family caterers of Ferndale, Rhondda Cynnon Taff, the disco provided by Alan of Starsounds and live entertainment from The Imposters.

During the evening, a total of £500 was made via the purchase of raffle tickets, £1 draw and auction.

This will be divided between the Mayor's chosen charities – The Rhondda Cold Knap Lifeguards and Barry Beavers Swimming Club.

Coun H C Hamilton,
Town Mayor of Barry

School pupils get up close to the creepy crawlies!

YEAR-1 pupils at Rhws primary school enjoyed visitors of a very different kind recently!

The children are studying mini-beasts this term and were lucky enough to receive a visit from Mr Aaron Grindlay, who brought along many of his rescued specimens.

He told the children all about his reptiles, insects and spiders...

He also explained the importance of looking after them and answered questions the children couldn't wait to ask about the unusual creatures.

The children even got to handle some of the creatures and described the day as "Minibeast-tastic!" **KB**

WRITE IN!
WE welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

In an exclusive message to GEM readers, **ALUN CAIRNS,** newly-elected MP for the Vale, reflects on the general election campaign and looks forward to his new role

'It's early days, but already my feet haven't touched the ground!'

I AM delighted and humbled to have been elected as the Member of Parliament for the Vale of Glamorgan and I must admit, my feet haven't touched the ground since – from holding surgeries last Saturday, to a meeting of the parliamentary party to consider the potential shape of a new Government.

I want to pay tribute to the other candidates for their vigorous campaigns, and to John Smith for his efforts in serving the Vale during his time in Parliament.

Although we regularly disagreed on policy, I never questioned his commitment to constituents.

There appear to be two prime roles of an MP. First and foremost is to serve and answer local concerns at a constituency level, and secondly to represent the Vale in Parliament, ensuring our needs are recognised and answered by the Government.

It was clear on the doorstep that the late Sir Raymond Gower is still recalled very fondly by locals and, from what I can understand, his reputation was achieved by hard work and a first class service to individuals and communities.

ABOVE:
ALUN CAIRNS, the
Vale's new MP.

I plan to do all I can to model my approach on him and his efforts, and be a local champion for local people.

Further to my commitments in the campaign, it was a privilege to hold my first surgeries last Saturday in Barry, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major.

It was also a pleasure to see people turning up with their problems, and I am doing all I can to try to help resolve them.

Naturally, I will be holding surgeries on a regular basis across the Vale, but if I can help in any way – no matter how big or small the problem – please get in touch.

The second duty is to stand up for our community in Parliament. I want to be able to make our case in the strongest way possible.

One area where national policy and local interest come together is the Defence Technical College. I will be shouting in Westminster to ensure delivery of the project, and will be calling on the developer, Metrix to answer local concerns.

Although a strong supporter of the project, we need to ensure that it also works for local communities.

Finally, I also made the commitment during the campaign to offer my resignation as an Assembly Member to the Conservative Party, which I have done. They will consider it at the earliest opportunity.

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Vale swings back to Tories after 13 years in Labour hands

by TIM CHAPMAN

AFTER 13 years in Labour hands, in the early hours of last Friday morning's general election, the Vale of Glamorgan returned to the Conservatives when Alun Cairns was elected as the new MP.

Mr Cairns polled 20,341 votes to the 16,034 votes of his closest challenger Alana Davies of Labour, a swing of 6.1 per cent. The turnout was 69.48 per cent, above the national average of 65 per cent.

Mr Cairns, who has represented South Wales West in the Welsh Assembly since 1999, has offered his resignation as an Assembly Member to the party.

He told The GEM he was grateful to the people of the Vale for placing their confidence in him, adding: "I want to work with communities in a similar way to that of the late Raymond Gower.

"A large number of people on the doorstep recalled his efforts fondly and I want to do my best to replicate that.

"I also want to pay tribute to John Smith. Although disagreeing with him politically, I never questioned his commitment to the communities in the Vale. I want to work with supporters of all parties and none."

Mr Cairns said that despite polls showing projected swings to the Conservatives, he had never thought the result in the Vale – a key marginal – was a foregone conclusion

"I was always optimistic about the result, although I didn't take anything for granted. Over the last five years, I have tried to work with constituents, businesses and charities across the Vale. I hope this has helped me better understand and reflect local priorities.

"During the campaign, it was clear that people were worried about the state of the economy and of how the country was going to get out of this debt. I was heartened by their recognition that difficult decisions had to be taken."

Alana Davies, the Labour candidate, who was protecting an 1,808 majority, said that despite the loss, the local party had performed well.

"We acquitted ourselves very well – in the economic climate we are in, after 13 years of a Labour Government, defending a tiny majority – to receive the votes of more than 16,000 people is most gratifying, and is a very respectable result. It's far from the wipe-out that was being predicted less than a year ago."

Ms Davies went on: "A great many people have said some very nice things to me during this campaign, but the greatest compliment I have received is to be described as 'normal'."

And if there was another election would she fight a second time?

"Will I stand again? That's up to the Labour Party in the Vale. But I can tell you that when it comes to the selection of a prospective parliamentary candidate ready for the next election, my application will be one of the first in!"

Eluned Parrott of the Liberal Democrats, who came third with 7,403 votes, said people had raised local issues with her such as the biomass plant in Barry and planning proposals, along with fears for the future of the economy and the provision of jobs.

"I enjoyed the experience of the hustings and would be really positive about standing again, if selected."

The Plaid Cymru candidate, Dr Ian Johnson, polled 2,667, an increase of 244 votes on 2005, and commented: "Our result last Thursday was Plaid Cymru's second best in a general election in the Vale, which is very good, bearing in mind that many people voted tactically in this election and that we were frozen out of the leaders' debates on TV.

"I had a very good response on the doorstep, with people raising both local and national issues, and being very impressed both by our work here in the Vale and the policies that we put forward at Westminster."

Kevin Mahoney of UKIP (1,529 votes) said the smaller parties would always be squeezed under the current electoral system. "We will never break the mould without proportional representation."

During his campaign, he found two issues that stood out in importance to voters. "The economy and immigration were over-riding concerns for people, and we were the only party offering the firm policies required."

John Harrold of the Christian Party of Wales (236 votes) said the party was "learning as we go along", and had visited 80 churches of all denominations in the Vale.

"The response we have had has been mixed, some people have said it was great we were standing, others didn't want to know."

The Green candidate, Rhodri Thomas, polled 457 votes, but was unable to attend the count.

Lay of the land changes

(FROM PAGE 1)

He added: "In many constituencies, the swing to Plaid will put us in a strong position to challenge Labour at the next Assembly election. I would like to congratulate Ian Johnson and his team for running an excellent campaign."

So, if knocking on doors and a good campaign failed to make a significant impact for Plaid, what will make a difference in the future?

Candidates and agents had mixed views about hustings. Alana Davies told The GEM that she felt the Vale hustings had, in the main, been well attended, and that she enjoyed the cut and thrust of live debate – even the down side.

She said: "I had a 'mastermind chair' moment at Barry Comprehensive when I was asked to explain the difference between the national debt and the deficit, and my mind went blank!"

Coun Wiliam said that he thought that, in reality, the hustings attracted a large number of voters who had already made up their mind, and that other voters were unlikely to find out how the candidates had performed.

He said:"I am quite prepared to believe that Alana Davies did know the difference between debt and deficit, but if she had done that on TV, for instance, it would really have harmed her campaign."

Vale business people say:

'We need stable government now!'

by TIM CHAPMAN

AS politicians in London scuttled around the buildings of Whitehall attempting to construct a coalition that would govern the country, the message from the Vale business community was 'Let's have some stability'.

When The GEM spoke to Alun John of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade on Tuesday (before the London announcement) , he said: "This needs to be sorted out and a decision made quickly. We're heading for a week after the general election and still do not know who is going to be Prime Minister.

"It is a difficult time for everybody in shops. People need to have the confidence in their spending, otherwise it can knock onto the retail sector.

"What we need now is stability and know that we have a government that can make decisions and pass necessary legislation."

He added: "I hope that when a coalition is sorted out, it will last in the long term so that it can tackle problems like the reducing the deficit. We need a coalition that can last for a full Parliament."

Stuart Sloan, the owner of the fashion shop Sloan & Co in Llantwit Major, said that for business people to plan for the future they needed to have an idea of a government's strategy for the future.

"Businesses need to know the direction a government is going in terms of legislation and taxes. An uncertain situation can make it quite distracting – that can affect business marketing and consumer confidence."

Stuart pointed out that consumer confidence was particularly important when people were considering a big purchase.

"I'd like to know what sort of tax regime there will be.

"I'd also like to know how quick any pay back on the debt will be. I favour smaller and sooner, rather than larger and later. It has to be worked through slowly and systematically."

Stuart, too, favoured a long-term coalition, as did John Lewis of JPL Sound The Barry Music Centre.

John said: "What we need now is something concrete. We don't want another election in six months.

"The markets can affect us because they affect many of our suppliers who are based abroad.

"The politicians have got to put the country first, rather than worry about their own problems. The economy is the priority," he added.

Relationship breakdown – putting your children first

The law dealing with relationship breakdown and children is a gift to family lawyers in that it makes the children the first, only and last consideration. Whatever we advise our clients, we must also focus on what is in the best interests of the children. The problem is that there are usually two parents with completely opposing ideas of what is in the best interests of their children, often both full of love and acting with the best possible intentions. This is where a gifted family lawyer can help parents through fear, distress and anger, encourage them to put themselves in their children's shoes and make decisions that truly ARE in their best interests.

Five things your children will thank you for:

Don't kid yourself

Children learn everything they need to know about relationships from their parents. What does a house filled with tension and resentment teach them? Children don't thank their parents for staying together 'for them'. Two happy homes with fulfilled and committed parents are much better than one miserable one.

...or them

If it's over, be honest. Tell them in an age appropriate way what is going to change and a little bit about why. Involving them, especially if you feel that you can both tell children about the changes together, will take away some of the fear and unsettling feelings. Make sure everything comes with lots and lots of reassurance about how much they are loved by both of you.

Be flexible

Try to keep as much of the old routine in place as possible but make sure that there are settled arrangements for children to be with both parents as soon as practical. Children are remarkably resilient and adapt to all sorts of changes so do not panic.

If one parent isn't turning up to contact sessions, birthday parties or swimming lessons, address it with them yourself or with a solicitor if you feel unable. It may be that it could be easily sorted with some flexibility on both parts. If it gets worse, don't lie to children. Don't be brutal but honesty is kinder than pretence in the long run.

Don't dish the dirt

You might try your hardest not to argue in front of your children but you can guarantee that they will soak up every negative feeling like little sponges. Try to be civil and if you really can't speak to each other use email or agree to use your solicitors to contact each other for a cooling off period.

Remember Mum will always be Mum and Dad will always be Dad. Things get very complicated for children if they feel conflicted in loving one parent when the other says that he or she is a bad person.

Accept you are going to be in each other's lives as parents. Full stop.

As soon as parents get their heads around this, everything becomes easier. You might not love each other and you might not agree on much but you both still love and want the best for your children.

A good children law specialist ultimately will help parents realise that the best people to make decisions about children is their parents.

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ADULT LEARNERS WEEK

MAY 15 - 21

Pitman training - work at a pace to suit you

ONE in three adults in the UK regrets not having got better qualifications while at school, according to research by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

Pitman Training courses is one of the best known and trusted providers of adult training the UK and has more than 100 centres across the UK.

Pitman training courses are all geared towards helping people get ahead in the world of work - building on existing skills, developing new ones and gaining in confidence.

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Pitman training is not just about shorthand and typing. Courses range from basic computer skills (for the completely terrified!) to advanced secretarial diplomas and accounting. Before starting a course, every learner has a free one-to-one consultation with a learning adviser to help them decide on the best course for them.

Leanne Waring, centre manager for Pitman Training in Cardiff, said; "My own experience as a learner has shown me very clearly that we all learn differently.

"A classroom environment can be intimidating for some people. Pitman Training courses are all self-paced so that learners can choose to work at the speed that suits them.

"You can start a course at any time and learners can choose the study times that suit them best, working around their existing work or family commitments. A tutor is always on hand to answer questions and provide support and encouragement.

"You can get on with updating or developing your skills as quickly as you want to and then use them to take your career to the next level."

For more information please contact Leanne Waring at Pitman Training, Cardiff on 02920 342020 or visit www.pitmancardiff.com.

Vale's answer to Good Life!

A local family have transformed a typically suburban scene into a thriving fruit and vegetable garden, which is being used as the teaching ground for a series of vegetable growing workshops organised by the Transition group.

The next workshop, in a series of four, will take place on Saturday, May 15, from 10am to 4pm. The tutor, Katharine Aylett, is an adult education tutor and has worked at Kew and the National Botanic Gardens for Wales. She has her own allotment and is a keen veg and fruit grower.

Katharine will give information on soil type and improvement, composting, crop rotation and how to plant. There will be a chance to build a raised bed and to sow seeds.

Rob McGhee, of Transition, says: "This is a great way to learn new skills and to join the growing number of people who want to source their own food and to live more sustainably."

For further details contact Dinky Kennedy on 01446 775686 or transitioncowbridge@googlemail.com.

Careers Wales is here to help your learning plan

May 15 marks the start of Adult Learners Week in Wales, with a host of events and activities taking place around the country to encourage people to give learning a go.

Taking the opportunity to learn something new or 'up-skilling' can really be a worthwhile investment, making you more attractive to potential employers, or more valuable to the one you already have.

Take some time to update your CV; look for any gaps in your training or qualifications and think about how you can back up your work experience with qualifications.

Whatever you have in mind, Careers Wales is here to help. With centres across Wales, Careers Wales provides free impartial information and advice and guidance about careers, courses and training, whatever your age or situation.

Call the Careers Wales Learning and Careers Advice helpline whether you're unemployed, facing redundancy, thinking about your first job or a career change, or want to improve your prospects in your present job.

Whatever information or advice you need, advisers are able to help you plan your next step. They will also be able to tell you about sources of funding, including Individual Learning Accounts Wales; you may be able to claim £200 towards the cost of training – depending on your circumstances.

If you're under notice of redundancy, advisers can tell you about ReACT funding, which may be available to help you retrain.

Let us help you plan your next step. Call our Learning and Careers Advice helpline on 0800 100 900 (or 029 2090 6801 if calling from a mobile - standard mobile rates apply).

Lines are open between 9am until 9pm every weekday (except public holidays) and again on Saturday mornings 9am – 12 noon. Alternatively email us on lca@careerswales.com

Advisers can also put you in touch with your local careers centre if you wish to make an appointment.

£50,000 put aside for Links Road

THE Vale Council's cabinet has agreed to allocate £50,000 towards improvements in junction arrangements at the Barry Dock link road.

As part of a continuing attempt to resolve local concerns over road safety at the location, the cabinet has agreed funds towards the feasibility and design work to improve the junctions at Coldbrook Road East and Argae Lane.

The cabinet was advised that various preliminary options had been considered, including the construction of a police observation point, the siting of a high resolution surveillance camera to record illegal u-turn manoeuvres and the deployment of either a static or mobile speed camera.

The construction of a police observation point could not be progressed due to the limitations of the site. Similarly, the siting and future operation of a surveillance camera proved problematic.

Leader of the Council , Coun Gordon Kemp commented: "I am keen to progress an appraisal of the various options as soon as possible.

"It is likely that any possible solution will be cost prohibitive for a council of our size, but we will seek the support of the Welsh Assembly Government and other partners in our quest to improve traffic safety along this important route."

The cabinet decision also has the support of local ward members for the area who have campaigned for improvements along the link road.

Local ward member Coun Neil Moore said: "I'm pleased that cabinet has committed the necessary funds to continue to progress this important matter. This is one of the most well-used routes in Barry and as a council we must do all we can to ensure that drivers and pedestrians are better protected in future."

Family's tribute to pedestrian

A 23-year-old Penarth pedestrian has died following a road traffic collision on Penarth Road, Cardiff on Sunday (May 9).

The family of Gareth Creeden paid the following tribute to him:

"Gareth was a loving, caring and hardworking young man, who took life with a pinch of salt. He will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him.

"He was a credit to his parents Nicky and Jane, an inspiration to his brother Matthew, and a loving boyfriend to his girlfriend Emily.

"We have taken great comfort in knowing that Gareth's wishes were to donate his organs, and in doing so he will go on to help other people in need.

"We would like to thank our relatives and friends for their kind thoughts and messages."

A blue Fiat Punto vehicle was involved in the collision near the Car Shop Megastore.

Gareth Creeden

Police are appealing for information and would like to speak to anyone who witnessed the collision, stopped to provide assistance, or saw Gareth prior to the incident.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Roads Policing Unit on 02920 633 438 or 101, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Moody Chorale stop in Barry

All Saints Church Barry will be the only stop in Wales on a tour of the UK by the Moody Chorale from Chicago, USA.

The Moody Bible Institute (where the members of the Chorale are students) was founded in 1886 by evangelist DL Moody. It is a non-denominational college that educates and trains men and women for Christian service.

Established in 1946, the Moody Chorale specialises in sacred music.

The chorale appears at All Saints Barry on Wednesday, May 19 at 7.30 pm. Admission is by ticket available from Graham Ellis 01446 749659 £5 (under-12 £2)

Flatholm Society's lecture invitation

THE Flatholm Society is inviting members of the public to attend an interesting and informative talk by Guy Butler-Madden, of the Positive Image Photographic Society, about the rise and fall of the Glamorganshire canal.

The canal played a key part in the Industrial Revolution in the area, acting as the motorway of its day, and was still used until 1952!

The talk will take place at the Norwegian Church in Cardiff Bay on Thursday, May 20, entrance is from 8pm for an 8.30 start.

The Flatholm Society will provide refreshments and a warm welcome to all. Tickets are available on the door for £1.50.

Activists and the election

NOT long ago, Sir Geoffrey (as he then was) Howe made an effective attack on his own Prime Minister for perceived disloyalty to himself as a senior minister.

He used a cricketing metaphor, accusing the PM of sabotaging him before he went out to bat as a member of the Government, by breaking his bat and doing other nefarious things.

A sporting metaphor might be now used to describe the Labour candidate's unsuccessful attempts to be elected in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Her candidacy was not popular among some Labour activists, peeved at a women-only shortlist of Vale candidates being imposed by Labour HQ.

Public attacks were made on this and, once the candidate was selected, on her as an individual - all in the press and not, as it properly belonged, behind closed doors.

This would mean comfort to the enemies of Labour and disquiet among those who might have thought of voting for her. The inevitable result? Defeat.

Before, as it were, she took to the pitch, she discovered the football had been punctured by her professional comrades, who had also smashed the goalposts and dug holes in the pitch.

Presumably because shock, horror, she is a woman.

The Conservative Party, famed for its fair-mindedness and generosity of spirit, will now presumably be thanking some Labour Party "activists" for their inestimable contribution to a Tory victory in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Can we, in future elections, look forward to a level playing field?

Roger Thomas-Jones, Barry

Local Newspaper Week

MAY 10-16

NS the voice of local media

building stronger communities

ABOVE: Jacob Ellis, Bethan Heslop and Lisa Sarracini.

• To mark Local Newspaper Week, The GEM asked some politically-aware school pupils to draw a timely parallel with the general election. ***Here is the result of their deliberations...***

MOCK ELECTIONS ARE A CLOSE-RUN AFFAIR AT YSGOL BRO MORGANWG!

Left to right: Jacob Ellis and Bethan Heslop (Conservative), Nia Russell and Jake Lamb (Plaid Cymru), Ieuan Donovan and Catrin Williams (Labour), Neesha Brown (Liberal Democrat)

RESULTS of the mock elections at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morganwg last week proved to be a much-closer run event than the result of the real general election, despite the fact that the end result mirrored Alun Cairns' victory in the polls.

Conservative representatives Jacob Ellis and Bethan Heslop (*pictured above, left, with the head of year-12 Mrs Lisa Sarracini*), were victors by the narrowest of margins, beating Plaid Cymru candidates Nia Russell and Jake Lamb into second place.

Year 12 pupils thoroughly enjoyed their taste of politics and deserve special commendation for trying to get to grips with the parties' policies in order to present them in hustings at school.

Below are pieces written by the candidates, explaining how they put together their manifestos to present to the younger members of the school, and their opinions on the result of the 'real' general election:

(Conservatives)
Thirteen years of Labour and finally a glimpse of change in government. Today's election has taken a new chapter in British politics. Give Labour the boot today!

We met up with Alun Cairns, our local candidate for the Welsh Conservatives. With his advice we were able to put together our policies and ideas in our school election.

We started our campaign to win over our fellow pupils. The question was clear: was it going to be five more years of Labour and one-sided politics, or a sustainable party that puts national interest first?

With a forthright win, we ultimately wait in suspense for the outcome of the proposal to the Liberal Democrats to work together.

Labour's failures can be overcome if we pull together and work together.

Jacob and I were successful in winning the school election by a healthy majority, put forward in order to raise awareness of the general election.

Our policies consisted of re-boosting the economy, bringing communities together, sustaining a British identity, clamping down on immigration, ensuring and maintaining jobs and work for all, and prioritizing the needs of British people.

Britain will change for the better. Indeed, Ysgol y Fro has made the right choice and this has been echoed by the Vale constituency.

Written by Jacob Ellis and Bethan Heslop.

(Labour)
We researched for our speech by using a leaflet from the real Labour Party. This gave us points for our party and against the others and figures to strengthen our points.

We outlined the main policies of the party, such as the economy, immigration, education and the NHS, and drew attention to the shortcomings of the other three main parties' policies.

Written by Ieuan Donovan and Catrin Williams

(Plaid Cymru)
Having been chosen to represent Plaid Cymru, Jake Lamb and I spent a great deal of time mulling over Plaid Cymru's policies and creating a speech which concentrated on the policies which we had read on the party's website.

Even though we didn't win, we were pleased to come runners-up, as Jacob and Bethan had presented the Tory viewpoint in such a successful and entertaining manner.

We certainly learnt a lot from the experience and time has proven that the results of our election were far more comprehensive than the national picture, which is still changing on a daily basis.

Written by Nia Russell

(Liberal Democrats)
The three wise men (sort of!) of the Liberal Democrats were Will Havard, Joe Chucas and Neesha Brown.

We were rather disappointed with our end result, but very pleased with our performance in the hustings as public speaking was a totally new experience to us boys.

Our campaign manager, Neesha, was unable to be present on the day and this certainly hampered our efforts!

Our only worry now is that the Lib Dems will forge a coalition with the Conservative Party!

Written by Will, Joe and Neesha.

NWN Media, based in Wales, is an independent provider of world-class printing across the country.

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The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council

Councillor Emlyn Williams

wishes to congratulate

The Glamorgan GEM

on their reporting of local news and community issues and thanks them for their support during his year of office.

Hoffai Maer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, y

Cynghorydd Emlyn Williams

longyfarch aelodau staff

Y Glamorgan GEM

ar eu gwaith yn cyflwyno newyddion lleol a materion cymunedol, a diolch iddynt am eu holl gefnogaeth yn ystod ei flwyddyn yn y swydd.

JANE HUTT AM

celebrating eleven years of working with

The Glamorgan GEM

as the Vale of Glamorgan Assembly Member

The GEM provides comprehensive editorial news across the whole of the Vale of Glamorgan and is an important source of news for all our our communities.

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI

The Town Mayor of Barry, (2009-2010) Councillor

Howard Hamilton

would like to thank

The Glamorgan GEM

for the excellent coverage during his year in office.

"As always, The GEM has enhanced its deserved reputation as a successful community newspaper."

HARP SUCCESS

YSGOL Iolo Morganwg pupils took first and third places in the Junior Harp category of the South Glamorgan Festival for Young Musicians on May 1.

The three pupils participating in the annual festival were; Nia Paddison Rees, Nia Fenn and Carys Lewis. All three received thoughtful, positive feedback from the adjudicator, Robert Bailey.

The results were: first place, Nia Paddison Rees, playing Blistering Rock! by Green and Rolando; second place - Ffion Walsh, playing El Pájaro Campana by Ortiz; third place - Nia Fenn playing Chaconne by J.Clark; Carys Lewis played Etude by C. Grossi.

Local Newspaper Week

MAY 10-16

NS the voice of local media

building stronger communities

LOCAL NEWSPAPER WEEK 2010

A message to our readers and advertisers from Sir Ray Tindle

THE Glamorgan GEM newspaper prides itself on its strong efforts to maintain very close links with the community it serves, and on the fact that it is still a family-owned independent newspaper, after 27 years of existence

We try to tell, without bias, the news of all that is happening in this area. Please tell us what more we can do to complete our coverage.

This is Local Newspaper Week and therefore an opportunity to thank you, our readers and advertisers, for your support.

We do our best to repay it through our columns each week. Tell us of forthcoming events we may not have mentioned.

Send us a report of any event we may not have covered.

We'll try our best to include your notes of such occasions, particularly if you include mention of as many participants as possible.

We are at your service.

RAY TINDLE
Proprietor

YOUR VOICE IN DEMOCRACY...

DO you want to know how the money you pay in council taxes is spent? Do you care if the police are making your area safer? If your hospital wards aren't clean, do you want to know about it?

If the answer is 'yes', then you believe in democracy and the right to know the truth without spin or gloss.

Local newspapers highlight the good work done by local authorities, police forces and health boards up and down the country.

But that doesn't mean local newspapers take the information they are given at face value - they challenge, probe and pose the questions their readers want answers to.

If a local newspaper uncovers an instance of wrong-doing, it shares the information with its readers and provides a platform for them to have their say.

By scrutinising public bodies in this way, a local newspaper acts as a watchdog for democracy and gives a voice to the community it serves.

It is in recognition of this vital role that this year's Local Newspaper Week (May 10 -16) is themed 'Your Voice'.

Readers, businesses, politicians, and other high profile figures are getting behind the week because they recognise the value of local newspapers in upholding democracy.

Democracy begins locally. If abuses of power are allowed to fester at a local level, there is a danger they will eventually grow to infect the entire system of governance.

Without local newspapers, your right to free speech would be placed in jeopardy. That is why they truly are the building blocks of democracy.

Local newspapers shine a spotlight into the corridors of power by covering local courts and council meetings.

No other media can do this so effectively, especially not council-run newspapers which pretend to be impartial while promoting the interests of the local authority.

If a public body has a success story to tell, there is no better way than through the local newspaper, because it is trusted above all other media.

And local newspapers, like The GEM, are also happy to give their readers good news.

Local newspapers tell the warts and all truth about the way communities are run, while providing a unique platform for readers to have a say on the issues that really matter.

Local Newspaper Week isn't just about your local newspaper. It's about you, and the right to make your voice heard.

How The GEM helps wannabe journalists develop their talent

LOCAL schools are full of young talent in so many disciplines, and one of the most rewarding aspects of running a local newspaper here at The GEM is the role we can play in developing that talent.

Budding journalists respond brilliantly to any challenges thrown their way by The GEM, and the two photographs (right) illustrate this perfectly.

The top right photograph shows students from the acclaimed Bridgend Youth Theatre rehearsing their next production, Stephen Sondheim's musical *Sweeney Todd*.

We asked two students at Bryntirion Comprehensive School, Siobhan Sullivan and Rebecca Smith, to watch the final stages of the auditions, and this is just a sample of their work:

"Now in character, they rose to perform a very intense and sinister rehearsal of the opening scene.

"The acting alone was enough to send shivers down your spine, but when combined with their cutting rendition of 'The demon barber of Fleet Street', it left us awestruck, biting out nails and wanting more."

A much grimmer task fell to some of the local students who travelled to Auschwitz on a 'day trip' organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust.

Once again, young writers produced vivid passages that described their experiences and their reactions to the events that took place there more than 60 years ago.

Typical of these was this extract, from Catrin Thomas, of St Cyres School:

"The silence that followed us around on our trip to the two concentration camps became deafening when we arrived at the gas chamber and crematorium, where the majority of the people who died at Auschwitz were murdered, in the false hope of a warm shower.

"At the end of the day we had a closing ceremony where we were spoken to by Rabbi Barrie Marcus. We prayed and lit candles for everyone who lost their lives at Auschwitz, and we reflected on what we had seen and learned that day, by having a minute's silence.

If we were silent for a minute to remember each Jew who died in Auschwitz, we would have been there for three years.

TOP of PAGE: Bridgend Youth Theatre students in rehearsal for Sweeney Todd.

ABOVE: Students from the Vale and Bridgend county borough wrote about their experiences when they visited Auschwitz.

YSGOL GYFUN BRO MORGANNWG
Unig Ysgol Gyfun Cyfrwng Cymraeg y Fro/
A Welsh Medium School for the Vale

We appreciate the editorial space provided by
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Congratulations to
The GEM
for serving the Community.
I hold regular surgeries throughout the Vale.
Alternatively please contact me at
Chris Franks, Plaid Cymru Assembly Member
The National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA.
Telephone 02920 922578
or e-mail christopher.franks@wales.gov.uk
Plaid

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which is instrumental in addressing community initiatives and news updates ensuring our townsfolk are continually informed.

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Age 11 - 16 Girls' School
Co-Educational 6th Form
We would like to thank
The Glamorgan GEM
for the excellent editorial and photographs for Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School.
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The staff and pupils would like to thank
The Glamorgan GEM
for the editorial and photographs celebrating Barry Comprehensive School's continued success.
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Download the prospectus and keep up to date with BCS news by visiting
www.barrycomp.com

Who will give Sabre a home?

THE *GEM* is in partnership with the Dogs Trust to find good homes for dogs at the Rehoming Centre in Bridgend *(telephone 01656 724598).*

THIS WEEK

"Sabre is just over four years old. He is a sensitive and worried dog who will need calm and confident handling. He's a real live wire and has lots of energy. Once he has got to know you he is very affectionate and loving. He loves water, particularly playing in the sea!" a centre spokeswoman reports.

"He needs a home with someone who has owned dogs before. He can live with other dogs and will benefit from living with a calm, confident dog. He can live with older children, 12 years and over. He can get anxious when left, so needs a home where he isn't left for long," she adds.

"The Co-operative store in Brackla, Bridgend, raised over £120 for the rehoming centre, and we bought all our doggy treats from the store to treat all the 80 dogs in our care.

"The Co-op has also agreed to have a food donation bin in the store for us."

LEFT: Sabre loves playing in the sea.

Who will look after 'Babes'?

Babes is a seven-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

A Dogs Trust spokeswoman said: "She is a very sweet and affectionate dog. She loves people and having a cuddle.

"She is quite overweight at the moment and is on a diet to try and regain her figure! She is housetrained and fine to be left for a few hours."

Type of home needed: She will suit a home with someone who has owned dogs before. She can live with children. She will need some further socialising around other dogs to help improve her canine social skills.

Babes.

The Dogs Trust annual summer fete and fun dog show is happening on Sunday, July 4 at Margam Country Farm (Twyn yr Hydd House entrance) 11am-4pm, a fun day out for all the family.

For more information, telephone 01656 724598.

WE welcome your news and views. Please email them to: ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

CARDIFF CROWN COURT reports by AJ SICLUNA

Brother who terrified Barry couple is jailed

A COUPLE became terrified when the brother of one of them burst into a room in Barry armed with a kitchen knife.

Liam Perry, 22, was told at Cardiff Crown Court by Judge Stephen Hopkins: "I consider you to be a potentially very dangerous young man.

"You are willing to arm yourself with a knife after drinking.You terrified the couple."

Perry, of Barry, pleaded guilty to a charge of affray and was jailed for 12 months.

For the breach of a community order which had been imposed for another offence of affray, committed in his home, he was jailed for a further eight months, to run consecutively.

Prosecutor David Lloyd said that on February 18, Lucy Perry, the defendant's sister, was in her home with her boyfriend Ashley Moyle, when Perry arrived drunk carrying a kitchen knife.

"He made various threats to Mr Moyle, saying – "Get up you puss, let's have it. Get outside, I'm going to **** you up".

Ms Perry was so frightened, she hid under the duvet and her boyfriend said: "Look, I am not a fighter."

Perry left the scene and his sister later told the police: "He is very unpredictable, you never know what he is going to do."

She said he was jealous of her and it was not right that he frightened her in her own home.

Perry's counsel, Claire Pickthall, said: "No one was actually injured. He is adamant he didn't want to frighten his sister and is devastated his actions have caused such fear to his family."

His family, said Ms Pickthall, no longer wanted any contact with him.

His problem, she said, was that he would drink from first thing in the morning until last thing at night.

MAESTEG MAN BROKE INTO HIS MOTHER'S HOME

A MAESTEG man has been jailed for two and a half years for breaking into the home of his mother.

Andrew Dyer, 25, described at Cardiff Crown Court by his counsel Owen Williams as "a hopeless heroin addict" admitted a charge of burglary.

He received a further six months to run consecutively, for a breach of a suspended sentence imposed for burglary.

Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones said: "Burglary causes people dreadful distress and makes them very security conscious".

Prosecutor Richard Evans said that on April 12, Dyer's mother left her Bridgend home to go to work.

Two hours later, Dyer was seen climbing into the property through a bedroom window, having used a length of metal fencing as a ladder.

When his mother returned home, she found Dyer had stolen a set of house keys.

The police were called and found him asleep in the garden.

The court heard he had previous convictions for burgling premises in Nantymoel and Brackla.

Mrs Dyer later said that what happened had made her depressed and she now felt "like a prisoner in her own home".

Mr Williams, said: "The only appropriate form of sentence is custody."

FOUR YEARS' JAIL FOR WOMAN HEROIN DEALER

A HEROIN dealer has been jailed for a total of four years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Tracey Thomas, 42, of Cefn Cribwr, was said by Judge Philip Richards to have distributed the drug on a "not insubstantial scale for a considerable period".

She admitted possessing heroin with intent to supply and received three years. For a breach of a community sentence, also for possessing heroin with intent, she was given a further 12 months, to run consecutively.

Prosecutor Sian Phillips said that on January 22, the police went to her home to carry out a search.

As they approached, they saw her running towards the back of the house.

She was intercepted and was handcuffed and dropped a number of packages of heroin.

She had £880 in cash on her and drugs paraphernalia, including three sets of scales.

Ruth Smith, representing Thomas, said: "Clearly, this case passes the custody threshhold.

"The last time she came before the court, she was given a chance which she failed to grasp. The drugs found were not the largest amounts, and she didn't sell on the streets."

Sadly, she added, Thomas herself was an addict and she dealt to fund her own habit.

"She is resolved to stop taking drugs." she said.

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'FORTRESS WALES' AT MARGAM PARK BRINGS HISTORICAL ERAS TO LIFE

RE-ENACTMENT groups recently descended on Margam Park for a weekend of historical battles. Glyn Evans of The GEM was there with his camera!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail glynevans01@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 01446 773225.
Now open in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

A closer look at PORTHCAWL

PRIDE IN PORTHCAWL – A RALLYING CALL FOR RESIDENTS AND RETAILERS!

by JAYNE ISAAC

PRIDE in Porthcawl – that's the town's new motto, officially sanctioned by a host of organisations including Shout and the Chamber of Trade.

And it will be a sentiment that every resident and visitor can identify with.

As well as being a statement of fact, it is also an aspiration, as groups and individuals work together to give people something to be proud of.

Council leader David Deere, born and bred in Porthcawl of an old local family, has set the ball in motion with his insistence that the council should seek to do more with its money.

"I wanted to raise our precept so that we could achieve something and I hope that we will give people even more reason to be proud with our new skateboard park and other projects."

The council employs a full time handyman who is busy repairing the town's public seats after criticism that some were broken.

Chamber of Trade president Lyndsay Morgan is another who is fully behind the town's new slogan.

He is a long standing Porthcawl businessman.

"Porthcawl is still a very popular destination for both holiday makers and day trippers," he said.

"There have been developments at Coney Beach and by the Hi-Tide to cater for visitors and Trecco Bay is brilliant – they have spent a lot of money upgrading the site and its facilities.

"We can offer people so much now when they come to the town."

Mr Morgan said that the new owners of the Seabank Hotel would be bringing thousands of extra visitors to the resort each year and there would be a spin-off for the town's shops and cafes.

He said: "Porthcawl has moved away from the full week or two-week break towards the three and four-day holiday which is what's happened nationally. We can cater for it all."

Mr Morgan said that the town centre had seen the arrival of new businesses to replace some of those lost because of the recession.

"We have a new Subway franchise in the town and there are a lot of locally-owned shops which offer residents and visitors alike better choice," he said.

"Porthcawl is a great little town. It gives people variety, with some quality food shops including butchers, bakers and greengrocers, as well as plenty of shoes, handbags and jewellery for the ladies.

"I am optimistic that we will see more visitors this year than in previous years, due to the efforts of traders and the holiday operators.

"Everyone is working together for the good of Porthcawl."

The town was busy last weekend despite the cooler weather and, on a sunny day, the esplanade is always packed as people enjoy an ice cream, a coffee or just a stroll along the front.

The long-awaited regeneration may be about to become a reality as the council meets this week to select its chosen supermarket developer – although this description has been altered to a food store.

This could trigger the start of the redevelopment, which could eventually see new apartments and houses built on areas like Sandy Bay and part of Salt Lake.

But, regeneration or not, Porthcawl has a lot to offer. On a fine day, there are few places in south Wales as attractive as this resort, with its wild beaches and surfing at Rest Bay, bathing beaches at Newton and Sandy Bay, its fine golf course and miles of walking along the coast.

The Grand Pavilion has been revamped and gives the town a wonderful venue for its cultural and social events – as well as a destination for visitors to attend its many different cabaret and show evenings.

The Town Council plays its part, with its floral displays throughout the summer.

Porthcawl is ready to face the new season and to carry on catering for the people of south Wales and beyond, for many of whom it was always the holiday destination of choice.

The new austerity and problems with foreign travel, caused by the recession and even the volcanic ash clouds, could see Porthcawl come into its own as people choose to holiday a bit closer to home and avoid the pitfalls of flying.

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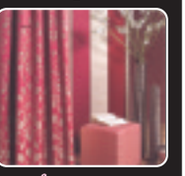
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The service is available for individuals who have not already been diagnosed with a heart condition, stroke or diabetes.

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The service is provided free of charge as part of a unique project with Cardiff University and will run until August 2010.

The Sidoli Family celebrates half a century of Italian cafe tradition

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IT is nice to be greeted by smiling faces where nothing is too much trouble – and that is what's offered at Home & Colonial Foods.

Tasting some of the delectable cheeses and salamis before buying – at the invitation of the staff – ensures a fun and friendly shopping experience.

With glorious and heaving displays, the powerful aromas waft out and around the shop. Hot Welsh cakes are cooked on a griddle, roast pork and beef joints are visible in the oven, plus there is a great selection of cold meats. Home made faggots add to the temptation.

This spring, Home & Colonial have made sure that every customer has something to look forward to, by supplying a new range of healthy, ready made meals – roast vegetables, pasta and creme fresh to go!

For the summer, new olives and anti pasta will be available along with picnic hampers, containing treats like pork and pickle, or turkey, and ham and cranberry cutting pies.

It's a happy third birthday to Shoes 22!

SHOES 22 of Porthcawl are celebrating their third birthday – and three successful years of fitting children's feet.

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Popstars Dance Studios

Barry-born Kristian returns home from war-torn Afghanistan

BARRY-BORN Lance Corporal Kristian Orton, of D Company 1st Battalion The Royal Welsh (Royal Welch Fusiliers), has just returned home at the end of his six-month tour of Helmand Province, in Afghanistan.

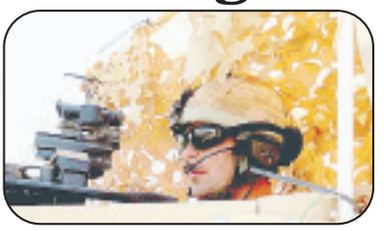
Kristian (29) was providing security alongside the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police in Loy Adehra, a village in the Nad-e Ali district in central Helmand. He was a member of a team which consists of two Mastiff vehicles and a Barma team, who search for Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

Kristian's role was to provide 'top cover' on one of the Mastiffs when they were on patrol. It was his job to provide protection to the troops on the ground. It is a tiring and difficult job, requiring constant focus.

A veteran of tours to Iraq, Northern Ireland and three previous tours to Afghanistan, this was his first tour as the gunner on a Mastiff. He is usually part of the Fire Support Group, which is a composite of highly trained specialists who use mortars, heavy machine guns and anti-tank weapon systems to support friendly forces caught in fire-fights with the insurgents.

Lance Corporal Kristian Orton explained: "When we first arrived in theatre we were conducting aviation assaults into the area we would later settle in for operation Moshtarak.

"The operations were quiet to begin with, except for one in which we came under multiple indirect fire attacks followed by long contacts of small arms fire."



LCpl Orton – enjoyed being a 'top cover'.

One of the tasks Kristian's team initially took on was to get to know the lay of the land in their area of operations and build relationships with the local people.

"We would stop and chat to the locals, asking them how they were, if they had any issues or problems and try to get information on any insurgent activity in the area," he said.

Operation Moshtarak, in February, was the largest aviation assault conducted in Afghanistan since 2001. Some 1,300 soldiers from Combined Force 31, comprising of the 1 Royal Welsh Battle Group and soldiers from the Afghan National Army flew into central Helmand by helicopters in order to surprise the insurgents and avoid the IED belt.

LCpl Orton remembered: "In the week preceding operation Moshtarak, there was a lot of hype on the news. We knew we would be part of something monumental. Seeing all the helicopters on the flight line and then all flying out in unison was incredible but we had mixed emotions.

"Yes, we knew the area and we knew we would receive a positive reaction from the locals, however, we did not know what the insurgents had in store for us. And of course, we wanted to do the best job possible."

The Company was spread out across the area of operations and each team of Royal Welsh soldiers had an Afghan National Army (ANA) contingent with them. "It is good working with the ANA as they know what to look out for and they can sense when something is amiss. We gain as much information from them as we do the locals," added LCpl Orton.

Kristian, who went to Ysgol Gyfyn Gymraeg Glantaf, has enjoyed his role as top cover. From his position on the Mastiff, he has a full 360 view.

"I man the 50-cal gun on the Mastiff. It is exciting. If anything happens you are the initial response because you will be the first to see it. If the Mastiff comes under contact, you relay the information up through the chain of command and give that first impression. I feel happier when I can see what's coming."

On one of his last patrols, Kristian and his team found themselves surrounded by a number of IEDs. "As we were going down a route which ran parallel to the canal, the lads checking for IEDs in front of us found one. As they returned to the vehicles, they found another. The IEDs were marked and we called for the counter-IED team. At this point, we came under fire from across the canal. As top cover of the second vehicle, I returned fire and the lads on the ground did too."

As the counter-IED team made their way along the route, they discovered three more IEDs that the Taliban had planted. "The Taliban had distracted us in a fire fight and at the same time tried to box us in by planting more IEDs."

Happily, the Counter-IED team was on hand and all the soldiers managed to get out of the area safely.

Lance Corporal Orton joined the Army in September 2002, aged 22, having done a number of jobs first. He said: "I wanted to travel and I'm a bit of an adrenaline junkie. The Army combines the opportunity of adventure sports with a career. Perfect!" He says his parents, John Orton and Siân Gill, are fully supportive of his choice in career. He added: "My mum was almost more excited about my joining the Army than I was!"

Kristian is engaged to Hannah Melling (26) a teacher in Swansea. He hopes to play rugby and ski for the battalion when he returns from tour. "Skiing is one of my favourite sports. I did it for a year in France. I have also done sky diving in Cyprus and the UK."

Kristian and Hannah are expecting their first child this month (May). Kristian said he is looking forward to it and has been asking other fathers in the battalion for tips.

He said: "Hannah has been to all the antenatal classes so she is well prepared. I haven't had the time to access any baby books, so I have been asking all the lads '*what do I do when...? what should I look for if...?*'

"One thing I do know how to do, though, is keep watch and my night-time watch duties out here mean I'm well prepared for the night shifts!"

Back to the days of spam, and cakes with no sugar!

ABOVE: Cynthia, Elizabeth, Coral, Beatrice, Mary, Rene and Sylvia.

THE Dinas Powys Wednesday afternoon club celebrated VE day's 65th anniversary with a party which brought back memories of the war years with spam sandwiches, dandelion & burdock pop and jelly and cakes with no sugar!

Club members and the local community came together to decorate the hall in red, white and blue flags and flowers.

Members of the Royal British Legion were present to remember fallen heroes.

Entertainment was provided by Pat and Noreen, who sang well known war time arias. Members dressed in original costumes and Mary and Coral as the pearly King and Queen dropped in to join in the celebrations.

Rene Gannon thanked everyone for their hard work in making this a very special and memorable day.

Rene Gannon (chairman)

Winnie Davies

Barry Swimming Club clinches second in gala

ON Saturday, April 17, Barry Amateur Swimming Club held its annual 'Ray Sutton Gala' at Barry Leisure Centre.

Five teams were invited to compete against the club for the trophy which has been running since 1986. The other teams competing were Blaenafon, Chepstow, Llandarcy, Pontypridd and Rhondda.

After a slow start the 14-and-under mixed 4 x 50m medley relay team, consisting of Alana Wilson, Nioami Everitt, Elis Richards and Kieran Knowles took first place in a time of 2m.22.56, which was nearly five seconds ahead of the second placed team Chepstow.

To start the individual events, Georgia Roberts-Powell took first place in the 50m 10-and-under girls breaststroke in a time of 47.63.

Tristan Cuer in a very strong finish took first place in the boys 12-and-under 50m butterfly event in a time of 34.56 with more than a four second lead.

Tristan also took first place in the boys 12 and under 50m breaststroke in a time of 38.72.

In the girls 14-and-under 50m backstroke race, Alana Wilson took first place in a time of 34.53.

Lauren Williamson gained first place in the girls 14 and under 50m freestyle in a time of 29.89.

Not to be out done by the girls, Kieran Knowles gained first place in the boys 14-and-under 50m freestyle in a time of 30.37.

With a four second lead, Nioami Everitt took first place in the girls 14-and-under 50m breast stroke race in a time of 41.09.

Georgia Looker also took first place in the girls 14-and-under 50m butterfly race in a time of 33.53 with a six second lead.

This meant that the 14-and-under girls won all the individual races

Elizabeth McCulloch, Shaun Bowden, Amy McAndrew and Rhys James, swimming in the mixed 10-and-under 4 x 25m butterfly relay, just took first place in an exciting finish by one second!

Tristan Cuer receiving his swimmer of the meet medal.

Swimming in the 4 x 25m 12-and-under mixed butterfly relay Douglas Wilson, Isabelle Peters, Lauren Prynne and Tristan Cuer also gained first place in a time of 1m.15.21.

Not to be out shone the 14-and-under mixed 4 x 50m relay team took first place with a very strong finish of 2m.23.00 which was more than 12 seconds ahead of second placed Chepstow. Well done to Lauren Williamson, Elis Richards, Kieran Knowels and Georgia Looker.

In the 10-and-under mixed 4 x 25 breast stroke relay, Georgia Roberts-Powell, James Hamer, Amy McAndrew and Shaun Bowden gained first place in a time of 1m.37.60.

Following on Georgia Looker, Elis Richards, Jacques Sloman and Nioami Everitt gained first place in the 4 x 50m mixed breast stroke relay in a time of 2m.49.60.

Amy McAndrew, Declan Ewington, Rhys James and Georgia Roberts-Powell, in the 10-and-under mixed 4 x 50m freestyle relay team, took first place in a time of 2m.32.09.

Again not to be shown up by the younger swimmers the 14-and-under mixed 4 x 50m freestyle relay team took first place with a time of 2m.03.59 with more that an eight second lead.

Congratulations go to Georgia Looker, Jacques Sloman, Kieran Knowles and Lauren Williamson.

At the final count Chepstow won the trophy with 263 points but Barry came a respectful second place with 232 points. Congratulation go to all the swimmers who took part especially the swimmer that had to swim up an age group.

Nioami Everitt with Malcolm Wilson receiving her swimmer of the meet medal

Malcolm Wilson, chief coach, then had a hard decision to make in deciding who was going to receive the 'swimmer of the meet medal'.

On careful consideration his choice was Nioami Everitt for her fantastic effort and the fact that she had to swim up an age group and also, for the same reason, Tristan Cuer.

A big thank you must go to all the officials and helpers who helped to make the event run so smoothly considering the problems with the pool at the leisure centre.

Barry Amateur Swimming Club is always looking for new members to join the club so if you would like a trial, please phone Mrs Heulwen Cooper on 01446 733784. We swim at Barry Leisure Centre and Cardiff International Pool. For more information please also look on the Barry Amateur Swimming Club Web Site.

TW

YSGOL SANT CURIG NEWS

School council's eco-home input

It has been a very busy time for the school council during the past couple of months.

A big meeting was held between all the school councils from the Welsh medium schools in the Vale. This meeting was held at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg. The pupils used this opportunity to share ideas and propose their vision for the eco-future of their schools.

The pupils received a warm welcome from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and their co-ordinator Mrs Glenda Jones.

As a result of this meeting, the school council was also invited to the education centre at Dow Corning, where it was asked to give their input into the development of an eco-home.

This was an excellent opportunity for the children to understand the effect that people have on the environment particularly from their homes.

All the pupils had the chance to work out their 'carbon footprint' as well as thinking of ways to improve recycling within the school to improve the 'carbon footprint' of the school.

Football

The team were lucky enough to have a new football kit bought for them by parents, which resuted in an influx of games!

The team competed very well in the Urdd football tournament, and were unlucky to lose out on a place in the quater finals.

Following on from this were a succession of friendly matches against Romilly School, Ysgol Iolo Morganwg and Ysgol Sant Baruc.

Whatever the results, Sant Curig wore the best looking kits! The school would like to thank the parents involved for their very kind donation.

Rhodri Jones and Aled Prys Williams

CHRIS MORRIS' COMEDY IS HILARIOUS, BUT HUGELY CONTROVERSIAL

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

AMERICAN actress Carol Burnett once surmised that "comedy is tragedy plus time", a theory that fans of 'bad-taste' comedies will all too readily subscribe to.

However, it is one that comedy provocateur Chris Morris may also live by. Morris has made his name, and reputation, with comedy that pushes the limits; whether it is his *Brass Eye* specials that made celebrities warn of the perils of the drug 'Cake', his TV show *Jam* that tested taboos, or his radio work that saw him announce the 'deaths' of Jimmy Saville and Michael Heseltine, his work has divided and tested his audience.

Having dabbled on television with the likes of *Nathan Barley* and *The IT Crowd* in recent years, Morris makes his big screen bow writing and directing Four Lions.

The film tells the story of Omar (Riz Ahmed), who, having taken umbrage at the treatment of Muslims around the world, decides to start up his own terrorist cell.

Having roped in the likes of Waj (Kayvan Novak), a somewhat slow individual, white Islamic convert Barry (Nigel Lindsay) whose hatred seems to extend across the spectrum, and Faisal (Adeel Akhtar), another individual who is less than quick on the uptake, Omar and Waj travel to Pakistan to a training camp.

When that goes wrong and the duo are forced to flee back to Britain, Omar takes it upon himself to give the group a terrorist target - providing they can manage to hold it together until then that is...

Some people may raise the question, 'how soon is too soon' in relation to Four Lions.

After all, while it has been nearly nine years since the 9/11 atrocity, and nearly three since the London 7/7 bombings, the incidents are still fresh in the minds of a world that has seen a scary rise in the number of these incidents.

But while Chris Morris may revel in his position as Britain's number one provocative comedy writer, he isn't insensitive enough to mock those who perish in such attacks, nor is he indignant enough to attempt to make excuses for those instrumental in these events taking place.

Instead, *Four Lions* seeks comedy in a gang of men backbiting, moaning and complaining about various aspects of life, who just happen to be planning a terrorist attack.

It is a brave move for Morris to make his big screen bow with such a film, but one that you would expect from someone with so much chutzpah.

For his part, Morris has constructed a film that is both a hugely hilarious piece of work, yet also isn't shy about dipping its toe into more dramatic waters, a film that not only tickles the funny bone but also makes you think about implications and costs.

Many will, based on Morris' previous work, simply decry Four Lions as being a film setting out to offend, but it is a far more intelligent film than that.

Playing jihadists for laughs isn't something you see everyday, and tapping into what motivates these people helps to give the film a basis in dramatic reality; yet Morris also willingly plays these characters, by and large, for broad laughs.

Much like *Dad's Army*, these are a bunch of men not cut out for what they are meant to be doing, but plow on anyway because they believe, misguidedly or not, that ultimately they can make the difference.

The comedy on show veers from satirical to slapstick in the blink of an eye, while always being tinged with a hint of tragedy, as we see both how not to run when carrying explosives and the perils of using crows to bomb targets.

Writing with Jesse Armstrong and Sam Bain, the men behind *Peep Show*, Morris delivers a script that drags out the minutae of four men being stuck together while at the same time depicting the serious nature of the situation that those both in the group and close to them find themselves in; witness a police raid that misses the target or, despite being played for laughs, the moment a sniper fails to tell the difference between the Honey Monster and a wookie.

Certainly the satire is played up, but it comes laced with harsh truths and realities.

Leading the pack of would-be terrorists is Riz Ahmed, so superb in last year's *Shifty*, and here he delivers another strong performance. Saddled with some of the dramatic weight, he is a family man whose wife and son support his plans to blow himself up, yet Ahmed manages to wring some level of empathy to a character whose anger at the world outweighs even his love for his family.

It is a turn that covers the spectrum and one the actor certainly excels at.

TV's *Fonejacker* Kayvan Novak backs up Ahmed with a comedic turn of superb idiocy, his Waj a man who thinks the afterlife will be 'Alton Towers without the queues' and who, when told to eat his sim card so as to not be traced, asks if he can cook it first.

While a broadly comic turn, Novak introduces pathos to the character that give him more substance than a mere comedic figure, particularly as the film winds it way to its conclusion.

While Nigel Lindsay gives a turn that strides the line between comedy and drama, the character of Barry being both amusing yet also full of hatred and anger aimed in all directions, with Adeel Akthar's Fessal proving to be a brother-in-laughter along with Waj, the main foursome make for a hugely comedic teaming.

Throw in cameos from the likes of Julia Davis, Kevin Eldon and Benedict Cumberbatch (a candidate for best name ever) and Morris has assembled a strong cast for the film, and they deliver.

Having saddled himself in the director's chair, Morris keeps things naturalistic and minimalistic while throwing in the odd bit of night-vision and clever swoops to try and give it a cinematic feel.

The onus is strictly on the story and the characters, the plain visuals accentuating this, but dealing with his own script, Morris seems entirely comfortable being the ringmaster.

While a final lurch into slightly more serious territory would derail other comedy films, here it is a vital component of what Morris is trying to achieve. By showing the impact of the group's decisions and attitudes, he does anything but mock the sadness and tragedy - the final gag comes laced with a degree of both emotion and also anger.

It is certain to anger many people, and deals in subject matter that is unlikely to top lists of comedic moments, yet *Four Lions* sees Chris Morris deliver something that while coruscatingly funny, also has a degree of social commentary laced with it - Morris is pushing buttons as always, but there is, as ever, a point behind it.

VERDICT - Dealing with a topic that is bound to court controversy, Four Lions is unlikely to spark a rush of terrorist comedies, yet succeeds in being both highly comedic and socially relevant.

Well handled by Chris Morris, it boils down more to a comedy with a point to prove and less a comedy intent on exploiting tragedy. It may not be to everybody's taste, but it certainly is a hilarious, yet also affecting, comedy.

New exhibition opens in Barry

Jane Hutt AM and Eve Hart.

ART Central in Barry recently provided the perfect venue for a retrospective exhibition of Robert Hart's work, supported by Eve Hart and the Vale Council.

Jane Hutt AM helped to open the exhibition with the Mayor, Coun Emlyn Williams. It will be open from Tuesday to Saturday at 10am- 4pm until June 5.

Jane Hutt said: "This exhibition marks a celebration of the life of an artist and art educator who lived in Barry where he experienced 'a strong artistic flowering' for the last 20 years of his life.

"The people of Barry can enjoy his work at Art Central and I encourage everyone to visit over the coming weeks."

COWBRIDGE'S TOM WILL GET BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS!

Left to right: Emily Morris, Paul Coleman, Tom Jenkins, Michael Crow and Bryan Hart.

Tom's marathon bicycle ride for Hospitality Action charity

COWBRIDGE hotel worker Tom Jenkins is training hard for a 110-mile charity bike ride from Swindon to Swansea on Sunday, May 23.

Tom (21) will be part of a team of five from the Cardiff Marriott Hotel who will join 30 other cyclists from five of their sister hotels this month, riding in relays to complete the route from the Swindon Marriott to the Swansea Marriott.

Sponsored by family, friends and work colleagues, they will be raising money for the charity Hospitality Action, which provides financial support for people who once worked in the hospitality industry – hotels, restaurants, pubs, bars and clubs – and who have since fallen on hard times.

Tom (pictured front) who is a front desk receptionist at the Cardiff Marriott, will be cycling with leisure club manager Paul Coleman (29) from Cardiff; housekeeping team member Bryan Hart (39) from Rhondda; human resources co-ordinator Michael Crow (23) from Magor; and leisure club team member Emily Morris, from Cardiff. They plan to complete the ride in a day.

The event is taking place as part of the UK-wide Hospitality Action Week, in which businesses within the sector get involved in a variety of fundraising activities for the charity.

The cyclists will be setting out from Swindon on May 23, aiming to complete the ride in a single day, with each of the Cardiff riders pedalling more than 20 miles.

To show their support for their cycling colleagues, other members of the 150-strong Cardiff Marriott workforce will be taking to the exercise bikes in the hotel's Leisure Club - sponsored to ride at least five miles in their lunch breaks.

Some of the 750 members of the leisure club will also be joining in the fundraising by taking part in their own sponsored ride on the hotel's exercise bikes.

The Marriott team are seeking sponsors to help swell their fundraising and support in kind from local business to ensure the Swindon-Swansea ride goes off smoothly.

Tom said: "Our team is hoping to raise a decent amount for the Hospitality Action charity, helping people in our industry who have fallen on hard times. But the bike ride will also help to build team spirit within the business.

"We are hoping that local business will also help us with the loan of a couple of bikes and some cycling wear and accessories to ensure the riders not only look the part, but complete the 110 miles on time."

Wanderers win at a canter...

VALE OF GLAMORGAN MIDWEEK CRICKET LEAGUE – WEEK 1

WITH 2009 champions Lisvane receiving a first week bye, Barry Wanderers took the plaudits in the opening week's fixtures scoring an impressive 181-0 (E Sherriff 91*, D Thomas 57*).

Wanderers completed a big 104 run win over visitors Creigiau, who were dismissed for just 77, N.Mantell taking 4 for 4.

At Dinas Powys Common, Dinas edged out Tynewydd by three wickets with four balls to spare. This was a lively encounter, with some controversial umpiring decisions.

Tynewydd mustered 135 for 5, Rhett Jones batting with a broken finger, top-scoring with an imperious 87 which included five sixes. Danny Zaman and Huw Marks both took two wickets apiece and completed good all-round performances by scoring 37 and 44 respectively, as Dinas crept home to the win. Ethan Fiddler took 2 for 22 for the Inn.

Newcomers Pencoed visited Barry Island and scored 128 for 7 against hosts Barry Athletic. The Stags, who have set their sights set on achieving their best campaign in the league to date, won by eight wickets with Nathan Baker scoring an unbeaten 77.

Hugh Smith (43) and Dave Sadler (42) provided the bulk of Cogn Chiefs' score of 174 for 9, but the talented Barry Internationals batsmen overcame a stiff target with four wickets in hand.

In the Llantwit Major derby, the Cavaliers' senior team compiled a very useful 160 for 8 (Mike Wood 47*, Julian Griffiths 37) against the Colts who are playing in the league for the first time. The Colts responded with 80 for 8 and Dave Russell and Julian Griffiths both returned figures of 2 for 7.

Finally onto Penarth who returned to the fold after a season's absence with a six wicket win against Fontygary.

S Singh top-scored with 52 as the Seasiders overcame the Fonty total of 118 for 6 in which Lloyd Bruce scored an unbeaten 54.

The league committee would like to remind all clubs of their duty with respect to the spirit of the game, especially with respect to umpiring duties and decisions.

A considerable amount of time was spent at the AGM discussing this point and teams are requested to select experienced umpires at all times. **JM**

St Nicholas WI May meeting

Members discuss latest resolution

MEMBERS of St Nicholas WI met on Thursday, May 6, when the meeting was chaired by past president Wendy Lowe.

Ann Bryant, our president, was unable to attend due to her involvement with election matters.

Following the usual business meeting, Enid Evans gave a report on her attendance at the Glamorgan Federation Conference held recently at St David's Hall.

Members were later given an opportunity to discuss the resolution.

Members also busied themselves buying plants from a magnificent plant stall.

Money raised from the sale of plants will be donated to the ACWW project.

The next meeting will be held at the hall in St Nicholas on June 3 at 7pm. New members and visitors always welcome. **EE**

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 617.

- **£2000:** 894950.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £1,500 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 166560; 256421; 287365; 503741; 518992; 283410; 741141; 839479; 646540; 840092; 447036; 177586; 261140; 277805; 756862; 673362; 593895; 165300; 928981; 657229.
- **£5:** 124974; 353171; 521065; 650170; 650782; 668495; 487733; 343869; 463181; 623598; 166671; 165061; 218923; 200649; 748583; 697239; 264688; 712353; 769504; 639078; 659422; 141892; 605637; 840532; 149655; 467459; 998372; 451604; 270211; 482744; 592398; 391481; 705249; 551668; 841765; 859752; 895775; 835529; 747112; 501667; 834329; 294311; 140689; 265421; 718701; 504755; 429063; 586991; 200771; 110043; 758842; 212754; 109459; 235750; 795593; 490761; 452066; 146389; 825271; 977906.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Homes & Gardens

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To visit the website, please go to www.valeheritage.com; alternatively, please call 01443 684077 for more information or a brochure.

10 tips on gardening safety

SWALEC has issued ten top gardening tips for gardeners this summer.

Latest government figures report that an average of 50 people in the UK are killed each year from garden accidents and 300,000 visit accident and emergency wards with gardening related injuries – 6,500 of which are caused by electric lawn mowers.

SWALEC's safety manager Gary Barnes is urging gardeners to take some simple safety steps to avoid turning a day in the flowerbed into a week in a hospital bed.

1. Check electrical equipment has been stored safely. If it's damaged don't use it.

2. Always use a residual circuit device, a protective switch which cuts off the electricity supply if a fault is detected.

3. Never use electrical equipment in wet conditions or when it is raining.

4. Always wear gloves, stout shoes and eye protection.

5. Never clean, adjust or check equipment while it is connected.

6. Do not leave electrical equipment plugged in while unattended.

7. If the flex is cut, always remove the plug from the mains socket before touching the flex - even when an RCD is fitted.

8. Never carry ladders in the upright position underneath overhead lines

9. Look up before you start cutting hedges or trees. If overhead power lines are nearby, contact SWALEC for advice before carrying out any work

10. Before digging any deep holes in your garden, check where underground electricity cables are located. SWALEC can provide plans of these for free.

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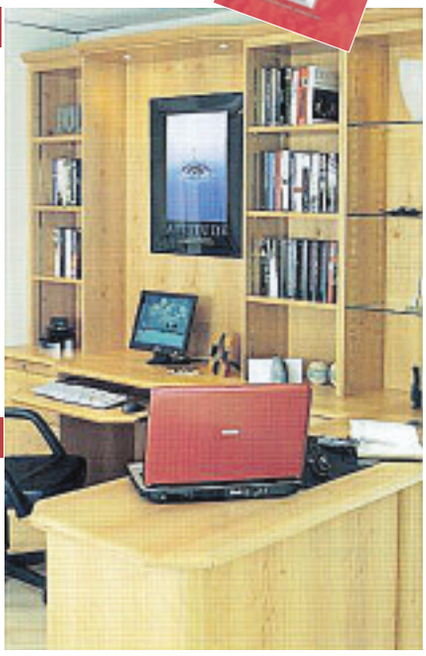

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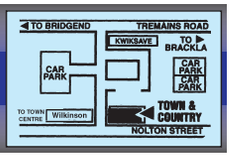

Homes & Gardens

Nipping garden crime in the bud this summer

IT'S that time of year when millions of people turn their attention to the garden – unfortunately the same applies to opportunist thieves.

Your garden, as well as your house, has valued possessions that thieves would love to steal. It also has equipment that could help them break into your house.

Most thieves will look for easy ways of getting into a house or garden.

By taking a few simple precautions you can reduce the risk of being burgled and make your house and garden more secure.

So while you're clipping your clematis and planting your petunias this spring, here are some top tips to make your garden a force to be reckoned with:

● Add loose trellises to fences or walls around your back garden, these are too unstable to climb over and can provide excellent terrain for climbing plants such as fast growing vines and honeysuckle.

● Use gravel for paths as the idea of creating noise will deter the opportunist thief.

● Prune low tree branches to avoid providing cover or potential access to the house and trim tree branches close to upper windows as they may provide access.

● Position security lighting at vulnerable exits, or somewhere that will cast obvious shadows.

● Give garden gates three bolts – top, middle and bottom, and padlock the middle one to prevent burglars exploiting a weakness.

● Position outdoor dustbins well clear of any potential entrances as they could be used for access.

● Never leave tools out as they can be used to break in.

● Do not leave ladders to provide easy access to otherwise inaccessible parts of your house. They should be chained and padlocked to a strong post or wall.

● Ensure your shed and garages are secure.

Sheds and garages are a very popular target with burglars and are often overlooked when security is being considered. The value of the contents, such as garden mowers, strimmers and cycles, etc, can often add up to many hundreds of pounds.

It is therefore wise to secure the shed door with at least one heavy duty hasp and closed-shackle padlock.

Always mark your gardening equipment and valuables with your postcode and house number. In most cases engraving will be most suitable.

Photograph valuable garden plants or ornaments. If you have a burglar alarm, why not consider extending it to cover outbuildings and sheds.

Costly garden furniture and valuable ornaments, such as statues or stone planters, can be further protected by anchoring these items to the ground – even valuable plants can be treated in the same way.

If you see or hear anything suspicious dial 999, and if you have any information about any crimes please contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or South Wales Police on 101.

Enjoy summer in the garden with ideas from Leekes

WHETHER the forecast promises scorching sun or typical British rain showers, make sure your summer is stylish all season long with a brand new range of garden furniture and accessories, says Leekes.

A spokesperson reports that householders can transform their outdoor area into an extra dining space this summer with an array of dining and seating options.

The ***Hartman rectangular set, £1399,*** made from a natural resin weave is the epitome of elegant outdoor entertaining, with a glass topped weave table and six matching dining chairs providing enough space to seat friends and family.

Or, why not take a secluded corner of the garden and create a breakfast area as an idyllic start to the day with the ***Chartwell Bistro set, £149,*** comprising of a small hardwood table and two slatted back folding chairs.

The ***Weber One Touch Barbeque, £199,*** is perfect for cooking up an alfresco treat; then sit back, relax and enjoy breezy summer evenings while enjoying the warmth and ambience of a ***La Hacienda chimenea, from £49***.

Soak up the summer sun from May until September with the super stylish multi position ***Brisbane lounger, £179,*** and enjoy picnics galore with Leekes 'mix and match' range of ***vintage style melamine tableware*** in cool shades of lime green and aqua blue, ***from £2.25*** **for a small bowl**.

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May fayre in Penarth

THE Parish of Penarth and Llandough is holding a May Fayre at the Parish Hall, Albert Road, Penarth on Saturday May 15 (10am-2pm).

There will be a variety of stalls and raffle.

Everyone welcome. Proceeds to parish funds.

On Saturday, May 22, an open garden and afternoon tea will be held from 3pm - 6pm. Admission £5 (ticket only). Telephone Ann Lush on 02920 703547 or Vicky Phillips on 01446 711250 for details. Proceeds to The Children's Society.

On Saturday May 29, The Children's Society annual May fayre will be held at the Paget Rooms, Penarth, 10am - 12 noon. Stalls - cakes/preserves, plants, books, parcels, toys, gifts.

Raffle admission 50p.

The Open Garden trail in Penarth will be on July 24-25.

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Runners head for Porthkerry Park and enjoy the sunshine – and the scenery!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail glynevans01@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 01446 773225.
Now open in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

THE LifeStyle Porthkerry Plod has now cemented its place as a highlight of the local sporting calendar, with more than 150 runners tackling this year's race.

Now in its fifth year, the five-mile event challenged club and novice runners to race around a multi-terrain course at Porthkerry Park in Barry that takes in fields, hills, roads, woodlands and coastal paths.

The Plod is sponsored by the Vale Council's LifeStyle health and fitness gyms, based at the leisure centres in Barry, Penarth, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major.

LifeStyle operations manager Jonathan Rogers said: "We enjoyed welcoming entrants into our gyms as part of their training for the Plod, and hope we helped to give them a bit of extra endurance to get up those hills!"

Andrew Palmer, one of the race organisers from Penarth and Dinas Runners, said: "So many of the entrants said that the course was fantastic, and that the organisation and marshalling was second to none.

"Everyone we spoke to said that they are already looking forward to running again next year, especially if we can continue to organise such beautiful spring days."

Penarth and Dinas Runners are a small but enthusiastic group of runners of all abilities based at Penarth Leisure Centre, and new runners are always welcome.

The club is also organising another off-road running event, scheduled to take place at Cosmeston Lakes this July. For details about this and other club activities, please visit ***www.penarthanddinasrunners.org.uk*** or ***www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/lifestyle.***

Centenary of famed British Polar expedition celebrated

THE centenary of the departure of Captain Scott's South Pole expedition will be celebrated in Cardiff next June by the Captain Scott Society, the British Antarctic Survey, the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust and the British Antarctic Monument Trust.

Captain Scott appreciated Welsh support for the expedition, including free docking and coal in Cardiff.

He decided that the expedition ship SS Terra Nova would leave from Cardiff on June 15, 1910, following a farewell dinner in the Royal Hotel two days before.

The ill-fated expedition returned to Cardiff on June 14, 1913, but sadly without Scott and his four companions, who all died, in early 1912 – and was met by Scott's widow Kathleen and her son Peter, among cheering crowds.

Dr Russell Thompson of Ystradowen told The GEM: "The British Antarctic Monument Trust has been set up to recognise the achievements of the men and women involved in the exploration of the British Antarctic Territory, and to honour the 26 men and one woman who have died in the region since 1943 in the pursuit of scientific knowledge.

"I became an ambassador for the trust last year, mainly because of my involvement in Antarctica over the past 52 years – and especially due to the fact that I lost three colleagues in cruel accidents during my stay in Antarctica between 1958 and 1962.

"The Monument Trust is registered as a charity and is raising funds to place a memorial tablet in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral in London and to create a monumental sculpture, part of which will be set up in the UK and part in Antarctica or the Falkland Islands, which is the 'gateway' to the British Antarctic Territory.

"As part of the fundraising activities, the trust has organised a series of lectures on Captain Scott's legacy on June 12 between 2.30pm-4.30pm at the Reardon Smith Theatre, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff."

The speakers include Dr David Wilson (great nephew of Dr Edward Wilson, who died with Scott in March 1912) and Felicity Ashton, who led an expedition of women from the Commonwealth to the South Pole earlier this year (some of whom had not seen snow before!)

Tickets will be available at the north door of the theatre for £10, with concessions at £8 and a student rate of £5.

Dr Thompson added: "These talks are highly recommended and during your visit to Cardiff on June 12, you will be able to enjoy Antarctic exhibits and displays in the foyers outside the Reardon Smith theatre and in the 'tube' in Cardiff Bay.

"Also, the tall ship Stavros S Niarchos (representing the SS Terra Nova) will be open for visits at Britannia Bay along with HMS Scott.

"It will be a great day out to celebrate this important centenary in the history of Polar exploration and the Monument Trust would appreciate your support."

Roadworks report

CARRIAGEWAY width restrictions, Plassey Street, junctions with Glebe Street, Ludlow Lane, Ludlow Street, Arcott Street and Windsor Road, Penarth.

Footway restrictions in place at Pontypridd Street – junction with Mount Pleasant, Barry.

Temporary traffic control, Gladstone Road Bridge to the Waterfront.

Temporary traffic control at A4055 - Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys near Merrie Harrier traffic lights.

Traffic management at A4055 - Barons Court traffic lights, Penarth.

Out and About with The GEM

Art Central celebrates work of Robert Hart

A major new exhibition celebrating the work of the late artist Robert Hart is set to go on display at Art Central in Barry this week.

Organised by Robert's wife Eve, and curated by Alan Salisbury and the Vale Council's arts development officer Tracey Harding, 'The Art of Robert Hart' reveals the artist's development over 50 years of drawing, sculpture and painting.

Robert left school at the early age of 13 and was then drafted as a 'Bevin Boy' to work down a coalmine in Kent at the age of 18.

His true education began in conversations with other miners when work was halted underground during air-raids. Finally demobbed in 1947, he trained to become a teacher of art and history.

After retiring from his position as head of the Centre of Art and Design Education at Manchester Polytechnic in 1988, he then moved to Barry with his wife Eve.

Once in Barry, he focused on his work as an artist, and joined VOGA where he became chairman. His wife is still a member.

The last 20 years of his life saw his art develop, with many themes he'd explored over the previous years being further refined.

His works are grouped by theme, including 'The Sea', beginning with the Kent coast and ending in south Wales, and 'The Land'; including the Pennines near Manchester, where he and Eve lived for 18 years.

Other themes include 'Responses to Music' and other abstract works. Examples of his diverse sculptures are also exhibited.

'The Art of Robert Hart' runs until May 29.

Art celebration

COWBRIDGE Art Society's 50th anniversary celebration lunch will be held in the St Quentin Suite of the Bear Hotel, High Street, on May 20, at 12pm.
Friends or non-members are welcome. Tel 01446 775735. There will be no meeting that evening.

The Vale's new link to Ugandan region

VALE AM Jane Hutt will host the launch of Vale for Africa, a new organisation linking the Vale with the Tororo region of Uganda, on Friday, May 21, at 6pm in the YMCA Hub, Gladstone Road, Barry.

Professor Steve Tomlinson of Cardiff University will chair the launch, and there will be speakers from PONT, UN Goldstar Communities and the Safe Foundation.

The AM commented: "I am very pleased and honoured to be hosting this exciting new initiative, which will benefit people living in Uganda and the Vale.

"The steering group has been working hard for about a year, and is now at the stage of officially launching this project.

"The focus will be on developing long term sustainable links between our two communties, with a particular emphasis on libraries and eye care.

"Anyone who is interested is very welcome to attend the launch."

Penarth Vespers

Rachmaninov's Vespers, which is considered one of the greatest musical works of the Russian Orthodox Church, was recently performed by Cardiff Polyphonic in Russian at St Martin-in-the Fields, London.

It will again sing the Vespers at St Augustine's Church in Penarth, on Saturday, May 15, at 7.30pm.

Llanmaes festival

ON Saturday, July 3, Llanmaes is holding its first village festival in conjunction with the Blacksmiths Arms beer festival weekend.

As part of the attraction, there will be a photographic competition entitled 'Spirit of Llanmaes' with three categories: 'People of Llanmaes', 'Structures within Llanmaes' and 'The Natural Environment of Llanmaes'.

The closing date for entries is June 25, with judging taking place prior to the festival and winners will be announced on the day.

OUTREACH

THE Vale Volunteer Bureau will hold outreach surgeries at Penarth Library on Thursday, May 13, from 2pm-4pm with Bulliesout, and Cowbridge Library on Wednesday, May 19, from 2pm-4pm with Stonewall Cymru.

LEFT: Jane Hutt AM, Leo Kelly and Charles Byrd at the Senedd exhibition.

Artist exhibits his work at National Assembly

ARTIST Charles Byrd held an exhibition at the Senedd hosted by Jane Hutt AM and Rhodri Morgan AM.

Charles spent part of his childhood in Barry and attended Romilly Primary School, where he sang in the choir and played in the orchestra.

Last year, exhibitions of his paintings and kinetic machines were held at Barry's Art Central and at the Travellers Gallery on Barry Station.

Jane Hutt, the Vale AM, reported: "The opening of his exhibition in the Senedd was a great occasion and he was pleased to be joined by Leo Kelly from St Davids' School in Colwinston as well as artists and friends."

Dinas Powys festival's six-day musical feast

The Dinas Powys Music Festival is staging six events during the last full week in June.

It starts with Llanelli Male Choir and soloist on Sunday, June 20 (Parish Hall, Britway Road, 7.30pm). Light Summer Music by Candlelight is on June 24 (St Andrews Church, St Andrews, 7.30pm).

Big Band Beano with Phil Dando's Big Band is on June 26 (Parish Hall 7.30pm). Bethesda Community Choir appears on Sunday, June 27 (Parish Hall, 8pm).

Tickets are available from both Dinas Powys Post Offices (Twyn and Murch), and from the Community Council Offices, Britway Road.There are some no-charge events which cater for the youngest and the oldest in the area.

One is a free children's flute workshop and St Cyres Choir perform on June 25 (Murch Junior School 1.30pm). Free senior citizens' entertainment by children of Dinas Powys Infants' School on June 25 (Lee Hall 1.45pm).

For further details telephone 029 2051 2405.

Oakwood ticket winners

THE winners of our recent competition to win a pair of tickets to Oakwood are:

Aaron Archer, Barry; Brian Watkins, Pontycymmer; Helen Cook, St Athan; and Lily Pearce, Llanblethian.

Congratulations to the winners and keep reading for more great Glamorgan GEM competitions!

Ewenny concert

THERE is a chance to hear some very unusual instruments – such as the hurdy-gurdy, dulcimer, shawms, English pipes, ud(lute) and three kinds of recorders at Ewenny Priory Church on May 27 at 7.30pm, when the folk music group 'Contraband' appear.

The St. Donat's Chamber Choir will also be performing Bruckner's *Motets*, accompanied by trombones.

It is all part of the Ewenny Arts Festival - for tickets telephone 01656 880412.

Car boot sale

LLANTWIT Major School PTA is organising a car boot sale on Saturday, June 19, from 10am-11.30am.

Details of how to book a stall are available from the school .

"A SAILOR'S TALE – jaw jaw please, not war"
a booklet by Cowbridge resident John Sorotos being his pesonal reminiscences of the Second World War is now available from
The Cowbridge Book Shop
72 Eastgate and
W G Davies, the Newsagents
18 High Street, Cowbridge
with the proceeds **going to five specified Charities** which enourage reconciliation, remembrance and support veterans.

Jane Hutt AM
Labour Assembly Member for the Vale of Glamorgan
If you would like to attend one of Jane's surgeries in the Vale, please contact the constituency office at:
115, High Street Barry, CF62 7DT
Tel: 01446 740981
Email: jane.hutt@wales.gov.uk
Next surgery: **Saturday May 15th at St Brides Major Church Hall, Southerndown Road CF32 0SD from 10am to 11am and at Wick Village Hall, Church St, Wick CF71 7QF from 11.30am to 12 noon.**
www.janehutt.co.uk

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Friday 21st May
Karaoke (8pm)
Saturday 22nd May
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Summer Skittles Cup commences 24th May.
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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

A4226 - "FIVE MILE LANE"

PUBLIC CONSULTATION INFORMATION AND QUESTIONNAIRE

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is in receipt of a Principal Road Grant from Welsh Assembly Government

We would like to know your views about the A4226 – Five Mile Lane which links Barry at the Waycock Cross Roundabout with the A48 at Sycamore Cross.

In addition to this newspaper announcement and its questionnaire, the Council will be holding exhibitions at the following venues between the hours of 10am and 6pm at:

- **Bonvilston Reading Room, Bonvilston Tuesday – 18th May 2010**
- **Wenvoe Community Centre, Wenvoe Wednesday – 19th May 2010**
- **Highlight Park Community Centre, Stirling Road, Barry - Thursday 20th May**

You are invited to attend these exhibitions where issues may be discussed with Council officers prior to you completing the questionnaire. In the meantime you may contact the Council's OneVale contact centre on 01446 700111 or by email to visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Should you be unable to attend any of these exhibitions, then we trust that you will complete the questionnaire opposite and return it **before Friday 28th May 2010 by FREEPOST**

The consultation process is to get your views about this road and to explore the basis for possible solutions should problems be established.

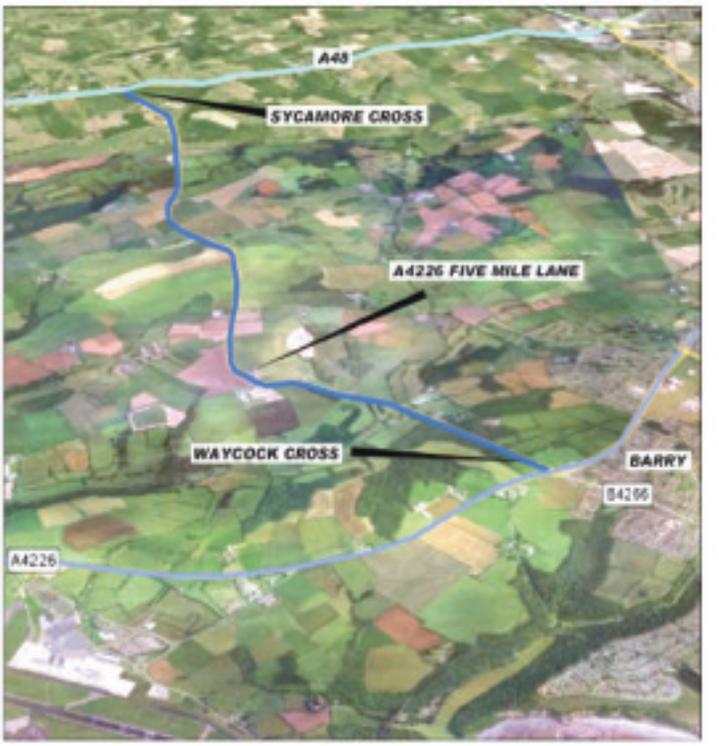
Please complete the questionnaire on the page opposite with relevant ticks and adding any additional comments which may be continued on a separate sheet of paper.

Access to Information

The Vale of Glamorgan Council will use the questionnaires to develop ways to improve transport in and around the Five Mile Lane corridor. The questionnaires will be disposed of securely after they have served this purpose.

A summary of the responses to the consultation will be published.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 2000, (FoI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs) which means that the questionnaires may be released in response to a request for information. However, all personal data will be treated in line with our obligations under the Data Protection Act, 1998.



THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

A4226 - FIVE MILE LANE

PUBLIC CONSULTATION INFORMATION AND QUESTIONNAIRE

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

For any of the questions you may continue your response on separate paper if necessary.

Question 1 Do you consider that the Five Mile Lane presents problems to:

	YES	NO
A Motor vehicle drivers?		
B Pedestrians?		
C Cyclists?		
D Horse riders?		

E Others? Please describe

Question 2
If you consider that there are any problems on Five Mile Lane.
(Please tick those that apply) **(Please describe briefly)**

A Problems at Waycock Cross Roundabout? ....

B Problems at Sycamore Cross Junction? ....

C Lack of overtaking possibilities over most of the route?

D Lack of facilities for pedestrians? ....

E Lack of facilities for cyclists? .....

F Lack of facilities for horse riders? .....

G General safety for the travelling public? .....

H Other. Please describe

Question 3 Which measures would you see as helping to address the problems identified in Question 2? **Tick all that apply**

A Improved bus services .....
B Park and ride facilities .....
C Park and share facilities .....
D Pedestrian and cycling facilities .....
E Community Transport ....
F Improvement of visibility ....
G Other, please describe

Question 4 Which of the following **best** describes your interest in the study? **Tick all that apply**

A I am a regular traveller along Five Mile Lane ....
B I am an occasional traveller along Five Mile Lane ....
C I am a local resident (e.g. I live along the route or in Moulton, Walterston, Dyffryn or other community near the route) ...
D I own / lease land along the corridor of the Five Mile Lane ....
E I am a tourist or a visitor to the area ....
F Other interest. Please describe.

Question 5 If future works are identified for Five Mile Lane, please list **3** factors in order of importance (**1** being most and **3** being least) which should be taken into account when developing a solution

A Impact on residential property ....
B Impact on landscape ....
C Impact on farms and businesses.....
D Protection of wildlife .....
E Access for tourism .....
F Improved facilities for non-motorised users ....
G Other. Please describe.

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

Post Code .....

Please print your name, address and post code in CAPITALS.

This is only required to check the geographical origin of responses.

Question 6 Please add any other comments you may have

For your protection and privacy, please refer to the Access to Information, Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations clauses on the previous page

Please return the questionnaire by Friday 28th May 2010 to:
FREEPOST SWC4630
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Quarry Road
Wenvoe CF5 6ZZ

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
A4226 – FIVE MILE LANE
GWYBODAETH A HOLIADUR AR GYFER YMGYNGHORIAD CYHOEDDUS

Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg wedi cael Grant Prif Ffyrdd oddi wrth Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.

Hoffem felly gael gwybod eich barn am brif ffordd A4226, sef Five Mile Lane, sy'n cysylltu'r Barri â phrif ffordd A48 yn Sycamore Cross wrth gylchfan Waycock Cross.

Yn ogystal â chyhoeddi'r datganiad hwn i'r wasg a'r holiadur, bydd y cyngor hefyd yn cynnal arddangosfeydd yn y mannau canlynol rhwng 10am a 6pm:

- **Ystafell Ddarllen Tresimwn, Tresimwn Dydd Mawrth 18 Mai 2010**
- **Canolfan Gymunedol Gwenfô, Gwenfô Dydd Mercher 19 Mai 2010**
- **Canolfan Gymunedol Parc Highlight Stirling Road, y Barri - Dydd Iau 20 Mai**

Mae croeso mawr i chi ddod i'r arddangosfeydd hyn a thrafod y pynciau â swyddogion y cyngor cyn i chi lenwi'ch holiadur. Cewch hefyd ffonio canolfan gyswllt UnFro'r cyngor ar 01446 700111 neu anfon neges e-bost i visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk yn y cyfamser, os mynnwch.

Os na ellwch ddod i unrhyw arddangosfa, byddem yn ddiolchgar petaech yn llenwi'r holiadur gyferbyn a'i anfon yn ôl **cyn dydd Gwener 28 Mai 2010 i'r cyfeiriad RHADBOST** neu ei lenwi ar-lein drwy fynd i www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Os na ellwch ddod i unrhyw arddangosfa, gobeithio y byddwch yn llenwi'r holiadur ar y dudalen gyferbyn a'i anfon yn ôl **cyn dydd Gwener 28 Mai 2010 i'r cyfeiriad RHADBOST** sydd wedi'i nodi.

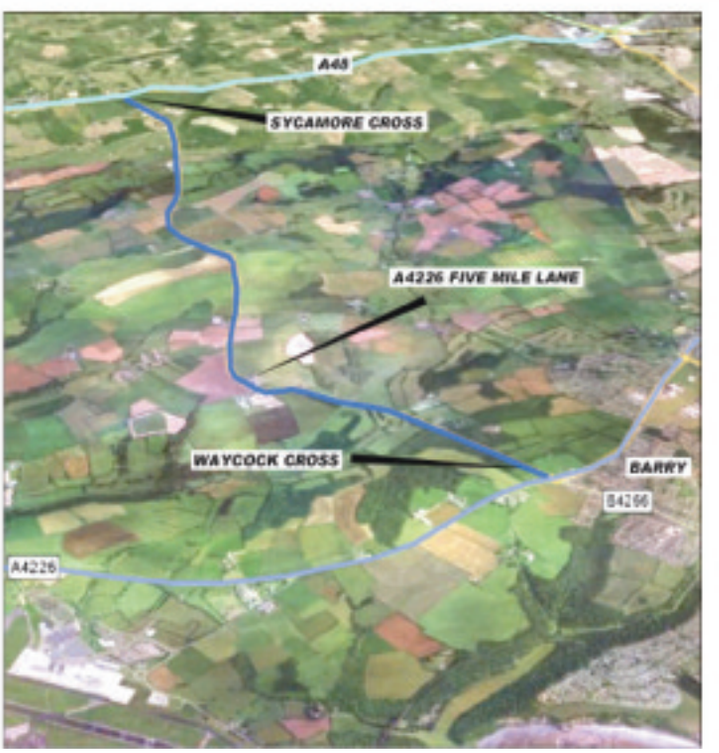
Pwrpas y broses ymgynghori yw cael gwybod eich barn am y brif ffordd hon ac archwilio ffyrdd o ddatrys unrhyw broblemau sy'n dod i'r amlwg.

Gofynnwn i chi lenwi'r holiadur ar y dudalen gyferbyn drwy dicio'r blychau perthnasol ac ychwanegu'ch sylwadau'ch hun gan ddefnyddio dalen ychwanegol o bapur os bydd angen.

Hawl i wybodaeth

Bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn defnyddio'r holiaduron er mwyn pwyso a mesur sut orau i wella trafnidiaeth yng nghoridor Five Mile Lane a'r cyffiniau. Pan fydd yr holiaduron hyn wedi ateb eu diben, byddwn yn cael gwared ohonynt mewn ffordd gwbl ddiogel.

Am fod disgwyl i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg gydymffurfio â Deddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000 a Rheolau Gwybodaeth Amgylcheddol, y mae ganddo hawl i ddangos yr holiaduron petai cais am wybodaeth. Serch hynny, caiff yr holl wybodaeth bersonol ei thrafod yn unol â'n dyletswyddau o dan Ddeddf Diogelu Data 1998.



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
A4226 – FIVE MILE LANE
GWYBODAETH A HOLIADUR AR GYFER YMGYNGHORIAD CYHOEDDUS

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

Cewch orffen unrhyw un o'ch atebion ar ddalen ychwanegol o bapur os bydd angen.

Cwestiwn 1 – Ydych chi'n meddwl y gallai Five Mile Lane achosi problemau i'r grwpiau hyn?

	YDW	NAC YDW
A Gyrwyr cerbydau?		
B Cerddwyr?		
C Seiclwyr?		
Ch Marchogion ceffylau?		

D Grwpiau eraill? - Rhowch fanylion

Cwestiwn 2 - Os ydych yn teimlo bod problemau yn Five Mile Lane,
Ticiwch bopeth sy'n berthnasol. **Rhowch ddisgrifiad bras**

A Problemau wrth gylchfan Waycock Cross ... _____

B Problemau wrth gyffordd Sycamore Cross .... _____

C Does dim lle ar y rhan fwyaf o'r heol i oddiweddyd .. _____

Ch Diffyg cyfleusterau i gerddwyr ... _____

D Diffyg cyfleusterau i seiclwyr ... _____

Dd Diffyg cyfleusterau i farchogion ceffylau ... _____

E Mae'n bygwth diogelwch cyffredinol teithwyr .... _____

F Problemau eraill. Rhowch fanylion

Cwestiwn 3 - Beth a allai ddatrys y problemau yng nghwestiwn 2, yn eich barn chi? **Ticiwch bopeth sy'n berthnasol.**

A Gwella gwasanaethau bysiau .....
B Darparu cyfleusterau 'parcio a theithio' .....
C Darparu cyfleusterau 'parcio a rhannu' .....
Ch Darparu cyfleusterau ar gyfer seiclwyr a cherddwyr .....
D Darparu trafnidiaeth gymunedol .....
Dd Sicrhau ei bod yn haws gweld wrth deithio ymlaen .....
E Camau eraill. Rhowch fanylion

Cwestiwn 4 - Pa un o'r gosodiadau canlynol sy'n egluro orau pam yr ydych wedi ymddiddori yn yr astudiaeth? **Ticiwch bopeth sy'n berthnasol.**

A Bydda' i'n teithio ar hyd Five Mile Lane yn rheolaidd ...
B Bydda' i'n teithio ar hyd Five Mile Lane o bryd i'w gilydd ....
C Rwy'n byw yn yr ardal (sef wrth ymyl yr heol neu ym Moulton, Trewallter, Dyffryn neu gymuned arall sy'n agos i'r heol) ....
Ch Rwy'n berchen ar dir/rhentu tir yng nghoridor Five Mile Lane ...
D Rwy ar wyliau yn yr ardal/rwy'n ymweld â'r ardal .....
Dd Rheswm arall. Rhowch fanylion.

Cwestiwn 5 - Petai gwaith yn Five Mile Lane yn y dyfodol, pa **3** ffactor y dylid eu hystyried wrth benderfynu sut i fwrw ymlaen, yn eich barn chi? (Nodwch y rhain yn nhrefn pwysigrwydd gan ddodi **1** ar bwys y ffactor pwysicaf a **3** ar bwys y ffactor lleiaf pwysig).

A Yr effaith ar eiddo'r trigolion ....
B Yr effaith ar y dirwedd .....
C Yr effaith ar ffermydd a busnesau ....
Ch Yr angen am warchod bywyd gwyllt ....
D Mynediad i ymwelwyr ....
Dd Cyfleusterau ar gyfer pobl heb geir ....
E Ffactor arall. Rhowch fanylion.

Cwestiwn 6 – Gwnewch unrhyw sylwadau eraill yma.

Enw: .....

Cyfeiriad: .....

.....

.....

Côd Post: .....

Ysgrifennwch eich enw, eich cyfeiriad a'ch côd post mewn PRIFLYTHRENNAU.

Yr unig reswm dros cŵyn am y manylion hyn yw cadarnhau o ba ardal y mae pob ateb yn dod.

Er mwyn cael gwybod sut y bydd eich gwybodaeth yn cael ei gwarchod a'i chadw'n gyfrinachol, gwelwch y cymalau ar y dudalen flaenorol sy'n ymdrin â rheolau defnyddio gwybodaeth, rhyddid gwybodaeth a gwybodaeth amgylcheddol.

Dylech anfon eich holiadur yn ôl erbyn dydd Gwener 28 Mai 2010 i'r cyfeiriad hwn:
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- Double glazed
- Unfurnished

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- Double glazed
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Bryn Y Gloyn, Rhoose Point
5 bed stunning detached, 4 receptions, No Chain, super kitchen/dining space, cloaks, 2/3 en-suites, bathroom, sauna & hot tub, large gardens, 6 car drive & double garage.
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LETTINGS

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Unfurnished 2 bed ground floor flat.
Havant Close Rhoose - £450 pcm
Unfurnished 2 bed apartment.
Redwood Close Boverton - £450 pcm
Unfurnished two bed retirement first floor flat
16 Picton Road - £450 pcm
Available: 16/05/2010
YMCA Woodlands Road Barry - £450 pcm
Ground floor 2 bed unfurnished apartment
Romanza House, Cei Dafydd, Barry - £450 pcm
1 double bed apartment with allocated parking.
Fontygary Road Rhoose - £475 pcm
Unfurnished 2 bed flat with garden.
Scott Close St Athan - £475 pcm
Unfurnished three bed link house.
The Wheate Close, Rhoose - £495 pcm
Unfurnished two bed semi with garage.
Fryatt Street, Barry - £495pcm
Unfurnished three bed end terrace house.
Cornwall Road, Barry - £495 pcm
Modern Two bed end link property. Unfurnished
Llys Dwynwen, Llantwit Major - £500 pcm
Unfurnished 2 bed mid link with off road parking.
The Wheate Close, Rhoose - £500 pcm
Unfurnished two bed link property with off road parking.
Shakespeare Drive, Llantwit Major - £500 pcm
Unfurnished two bed mid link with parking.
Scott Close, St Athan - £525 pcm
Well presented unfurnished four bed end link house with parking.
Fonmon Park Road, Rhoose - £525 pcm
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Livingstone Way, St Athan - £525 pcm
Well presented three bed mid link property. Luxury bathroom.
Treharne Road, Barry - £525 pcm
Unfurnished 2 double bedroomed house.
Shackleton Close, St Athan - £525 pcm
Well presented three bed house with enclosed rear garden.
Picton Road, Rhoose - £550 pcm
Two bedroom end link house with driveway and garage.
Cardiff Road, Llandaff - £595 pcm
Traditional three bed unfurnished semi with enclosed rear garden.
Castle Road Rhoose - £650 pcm
Three bedroom family home with parking.
Church Meadow, Boverton - £795 pcm
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Porfa Ballas, Rhoose - £1,250 pcm
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121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

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- Double glazing
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- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

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- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

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- Double glazing

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- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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- Double glazing

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TREBEFERAD, LLANTWIT MJR

H4U Reference 236477
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- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

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Pupils journey back in time for end of war party

THE year-3 pupils at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School have been learning about life on the Home Front during World War 2.

They have each built a mock Anderson shelter in their classroom, and to celebrate the success of this topic, the children held their own VE Day part.

Remembering that food was still rationed at the end of the war, as good neighbours would share in those days, they pooled their resources to create an authentic party with flags and bunting and jelly taking pride of place as a real treat!

The children and their teachers, Mrs Williams and Mrs Whitehouse, agreed that it was a great way to bring a history lesson to life.

LEFT:
The pupils of All Saints had a great time at their VE Day party.

BARRY BOYS IMPRESS AT ROSSLYN PARK SEVENS

BARRY Comprehensive School under-13s and under-16s rugby teams took part in the prestigious Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens in London at the end of March, and were delighted to wear their new kits, generously sponsored by Concept Fire & Security and Dragon Graphics & Design.

The under-13s were in a very tough group, opening with a game against Sir Joseph Williamsons. The boys took a while to adapt to the pace of the game but gave a very creditable second half performance.

In the second game, Barry picked up a win against renowned English giants Yarm in a titanic battle, coming out 17-12 winners.

In the final pool game, Bristol proved too big and powerful for Barry, winning 33-14, with the sin binning of outstanding Barry forward Rhys Forse not helping.

It was a sharp learning curve for the young Barry team, that will stand them in good stead for the future, with notable performances from Rhys Forse, Connor Clarke, Chad Travis and Theo Richards, Also, year-7 pupils Cameron Gibbon and Scott Griffith really stepped up to the level.

The under-16s, with six under-15s in the squad, also found themselves in a tough group. Barry got off to a great start beating Haydon 20-25 in the first game, and appearing to be coasting against The Perse in the second game until star wing Arran Reid was sin-binned for a tackle after the whistle.

The one-man advantage allowed The Perse to snatch the game 26-24, with two tries in the last two minutes.

The defeat meant Barry had to beat previously unbeaten Wimbledon in the final game and attempt to score as many tries as possible. In an outstanding performance, Barry won 32-14, deciding not to take conversions after the third try to save time. The six-try victory made Barry the pool winners.

In the last 32, Barry had to play Wycliffe and raced to a 19-7 half-time lead, but injuries to outstanding captain Luke O'Sullivan and try machine Arran Reid allowed Wycliffe back to 19-19. Then, with the final play of the game, the English outfit stole the ball and scored to take the spoils 25-19.

Coach David Manley said: "It was a superb effort from a very talented Barry side, especially as six of the squad can return next year as they are still under-15. Rather than picking out individuals, the whole squad deserves congratulations. I can never remember feeling more proud of a team's effort."

The players and staff would like to thank Steve Smith of Concept Fire & Security and Rhys Harrington of Dragon Graphics & Design for sponsoring the playing kit, and all parents who travelled up to London to support the teams for their much appreciated effort.

The under-13s squad in their new uniforms - Rhys Forse, Scott Griffith, Connor Hayward, Jordan Schembri, Tom Jones Harvey Barratt, Connor Clarke, Chad Travis (captain), Theo Richards, Daniel Ladner, Cameron Gibbon, Bradley Enticott.

ABOVE:
The under-16s squad in their new uniforms - Luke O'Sullivan (captain), James Sheekey, Jan Lewis, Ellis Smith, Jake Goodfellow, Campbell Prosser, Kyle Barros, Jordan Flynn, Luke Giddings, Michael Hamonda, Bradley White, Arran Reid.

Cadoxton students enjoy a black belt weekend

From left to right: James Walsh, Junior, Master James Walsh, Senior, Master Alyson Williams, Gianna Di Mauro, Demi McFarlane, Morganne Gomez Jones, Donna McFarlane, Gemma Crowley, Barry Ellis, Callum Sullivan, Jon Hawkins, Master J Teeuwissen, Master Ronald Thomas, Jacob Brown, Georgia Ellis and Tamara Lewis. (Missing is Jessica Mardon).

RECENTLY, three members of the Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do successfully completed a gruelling weekend examination to achieve the coveted first degree black belt.

The students were put through their paces by a European grading panel consisting of Masters: Ronald Thomas (Wales) J Teeuwissen (Holland), James Walsh (Ireland) and Alyson Williams (England).

There was a total of 13 students sitting the examination from the Cadoxton, Colcot, Cardiff, Liverpool and Ireland schools.

The weekend started on the Friday evening, where the students went through the coloured belt syllabus. The examination started at 10am on the Saturday morning, finishing at 2pm. First up were the students sitting their first degree, followed by students testing for their 2nd, 3rd and 4th degrees.

The examination consisted of all the elements of Tae Kwon Do, starting with forms, set sparring, free sparring and power tests and, finally, Ki breathing forms.

A celebration buffet and disco was held at the Barry Island Conservative Club, where certificates and new black belts were presented to the successful students.

Places are now available for beginners of all ages, Mondays and Wednesdays from 6pm at the Victoria Park Community Centre. For further information, telephone Ron Thomas on 01446 406372.

RT

SEAVIEW LADS ROUND-UP

SHORE fishing has picked up over the past few weeks with dogs rays and hounds coming inshore. After what seems like a lifetime, the snowball went on Sunday, with Thomas Williams landing a ray from the pebbles.

The previous weekend was dominated by the CIU open match, with many anglers fishing for the honours. Our champion, Jodie Velda did the business on the day with a fine winning weight of over 13lb that included a ray and dogs. This also carried his team to second place overall! The recent trip to Llangenydd was a great success, with some fine fish being weighed in, top place going to El Presidento, Alan Peterson while Bod landed a fine 2lb 7oz Flounder and Daniel Ladner a 4lb plus Bass.

The first boat trip of the year held on April 10 was a success, with plenty of fish being landed, top place going to Aka with over 80lb of fish.

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Public Notices

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
LEGAL, PUBLIC PROTECTION & HOUSING SERVICES
MARRIAGE ACT 1994 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

Take notice that the above department has received the following application under the above Act from S A Brain & Co Ltd for the Duke of Wellington, 48 High Street, Cowbridge, CF71 7AG to be approved as a venue for Marriage and Civil Partnership Ceremonies.

This application and associated plans are available for public inspection between 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU.

Any person wishing to object to the grant of this approval should write to the above address giving reasons for their objection within 21 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Peter H Evans
Director of Legal, Public Protection & Housing Services

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
GWASANAETHAU CYFREITHIOL, DIOGELU'R CYHOEDD A THAI
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Mae'r cais hwn a'r cynluniau cysylltiedig ar gael i'r cyhoedd eu gweld rhwng 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., o ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener yn y Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Heol Holton, Y Barri CF63 4RU.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wrthwynebu'r gymeradwyaeth hon ysgrifennu i'r cyfeiriad uchod yn rhoi rheseisiau dros eu gwrthwynebiad o fewn 21 diwrnod i gyhoeddi'r hysbysiad hwn.

Peter H Evans
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, Diogelu'r Cyhoedd a Thai

Family Notices

BROOKE
Audrie

Peacefully on April 30 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Audrie of Southerndown.
Dearly beloved wife of Geoff and much-loved mother of Karen, Denise and Roger. An active member of Southerndown WI, widely known for her sense of humour, her love of nature and her extensive botanical knowledge. She is much missed. Service at Coychurch Crematorium on May 14 at 1.45pm. Family flowers only, please. Donations, if desired, towards a memorial in Dunraven Gardens through the funeral directors, J R & N F David at St Brides Major.

Alice Hopkins

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital, Alice of Baltimore Care Home, Barry, previously Westward Rise, Barry.
Much loved mother of Ian and Leigh, resting at AG Adams & Son funeral home until the service in the chapel on Friday May 28 at 1.30pm, followed by cremation at Glyntaff Crematorium. All enquiries to 01446 735400.

Mary PARSONS

On May 8, peacefully in hospital, Mary, of Eastgate, Cowbridge, dearly loved wife of the late Ivor, dear mum of Joan and the late Jeff and their families.

Funeral Friday, 21 May, 2.15pm at Mid Glamorgan Crematorium, Coychurch, where friends please meet.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to St George Thomas Hospice Care c/o Thomas Brothers, Mitson Cottage, Llandough, Cowbridge CF71 7LR. Telephone 01446 772669 or 775681.

Acknowledgements

William Madron PRICE (Bill)

Marion, Gareth, Huw and family would like to thank all of the many people who have sent messages of sympathy at this sad time.

They should also like to thank all those who attended Bill's funeral on May 4. It was a real tribute to him that so many attended.

Special thanks to the staff of Eryl Surgery and the staff of Holme Tower Marie Curie Hospice for their care during his short illness.

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THE HARSH WIND OF REALITY HITS THE STAG FIRSTS

FRESH from their 122 run victory over Upper Rhondda, Barry 1st XI captain, Nathan Baker, took his side to promotion contenders, Vale CC, knowing that a win would seriously boost his side's chances of launching a promotion bid of their own, come the end of August.

ABOVE:
Interim chairman, Martin Baker (left), presents (on behalf of Barry Athletic CC) a framed club shirt to Mark Barrett.

The typical Welsh weather had returned, with the wet and windy conditions haunting the ground. Baker continued his winning luck at the toss, choosing to field first.

Barry began brightly as two early wickets fell within the first six overs, as former chairman, Peter Hellyar, and James Haswell, worked the new ball and caused some serious problems for the home side.

Excellent work in the fielding, especially from Ian Gadd and Scott Malpas, saw some hairy moments for the batsmen as appeals for run-outs were heard and turned down.

The standard of bowling was maintained as bowlers, Steve Jones and Andrew Buckland, caused more problems for the batsmen and if the dropped catches were taken, Barry would be chasing down a much easier target. Despite that, the Vale battled to an impressive 228-8 from 50 overs.

After the mid-session interval, the Stags began brightly as opening batsmen, Lee Morgan and Andrew Buckland, fought through the highly talented Vale CC bowling attack and the bowler-friendly conditions, giving the Stags a steady foundation to build on for the rest of the innings. A fine display from former captain, Lee Morgan (64), wasn't enough for the Stags, as they slumped to 153 all out – claiming just six points.

This weekend sees the Stag 1st XI play two matches in the space of two days, as they play Cardiff Gymkhana CC at the Barry Oval (Saturday) and at Llanrumney University Fields (Sunday). This could prove to be a pivotal weekend for the Stags, as they look to get their promotion bid back on track.

Seconds lose

Last Saturday saw the return of former skipper, Martin Baker, to the side as they opened their league campaign against Radyr, fresh from an impressive result at Croesyceiliog, last week.

The Stags have been severely weakened this week, due to injuries and unavailability in the squad.

Overcast conditions and a weather forecast that could suggest showers throughout the day influenced the visiting captain, as Radyr won the toss and elected to have a bat . . . after tea.

Despite the fact that the Stags were extremely thin on full-time batsmen, they coped really well with the conditions and the talented attack, consistently scoring runs and rotating the strike.

Despite the typical Welsh summer conditions, the Stags continued to control the innings and with knocks from Kieran Davies (32), Jake Griffett (31), Scott Hopkins (42) and a maiden half-century from Jonathan Phillips (52), the Stags battled to a competitive score of 193-6 from their 50 overs.

After the mid-session interval, the second innings began and although the conditions were worsening, Radyr wasted no time in putting immediate pressure on the Stags' bowling attack, with the score standing at 59-1 from eight overs.

Baker thought his side were going to get away with a 'No Result', after the heavens opened and the players were forced off the pitch for some time.

But, the rain halted for the remainder of the day and Radyr raced to the total with only 25 overs played, winning by nine wickets.

The Stags will be hoping for better, with a list of players back for this Saturday's trip to Croesyceiliog, as the 2nd XI look to register their first win of the season.

Thirds win

Skipper, Andy Ellis, led his Barry 3rd XI for the first time, against title favourites, Cardiff CC.

The new season brought a new club record, as there were four "Dad 'n' Son" combinations in line for the Stags.

A change in captaincy brought a change of fortune, at the toss, as Ellis won the toss and chose to field first.

The innings began in emphatic fashion as the batsmen wasted no time, punishing the bad balls and raced to 103-1 from only 10 overs. Bowlers, David Frost and Callum Twomey, suffered a massive dent in confidence after their spells as a result.

This brought the skipper's first decision of the match, as Ellis brought himself and Ashley Baker, on to bowl and attempt to clamp down on the runs. Thankfully, this was the case, as they kept the runs down to a minimum and took key wickets – including the prize wicket of Adam Markham-Jones (76) and the wicket of Dewi Preece (33).

Ellis finished off with 1-17 from five overs and Baker finished with 2-17 from five overs, bringing the Stags back into the match.

The depth of the bowling attack was evident, as Ben Eastman and Pete Phillips both took a wicket – Phillips claiming his first ever wicket at the Barry Oval, after a diving catch from Baker, at gully.

An excellent show of determination and character from the Stags saw them recover from 103-1 from 10 overs, to 179 all out from 29.4 overs.

The second innings started with a large flourish of runs scored from the bat. Andy Ellis began brightly along with Jonathan Phillips.

Despite the runs being consistently scored, wickets were falling at regular intervals, with the score on 60-3 from 12 overs. Director of Cricket, Peter Phillips, threw his notebook in disgust as to the manner of the wickets falling.

The Stags needed a partnership, and that was what they got, when the partnership of Ashley Baker and Richard Eastman stabilised the innings and took the game to the visitors.

As a result, Eastman and Baker passed the 100 run partnership and Baker reached his first competitive half-century. The target was in sight, when both Baker and Eastman fell for knocks of 63 and 34 respectively.

Thankfully, there was enough batsmen to carry the Stags over the line, winning by one wicket and claiming their first 20 points of the season, lifting them to the top of the table.

Night to remember

THE STAGS hosted their monthly party last Saturday, with a guest appearance from Mark Barrett and "Shack", who have provided sponsorship for the club for many years.

Interim chairman, Martin Baker, paid tribute to the sponsors and thanked Mark, especially, for his contribution to the club. Baker also thanked those who arrived at the party, making it a night to remember.

Barry under-11s v Creigiau under-11s

Barry Entertained Creigiau at the Island Oval, which turned out to be a good day, once again in the runs were Sam Hopkins & Calvin Fahiya, also there was some sensible running throughout the team & with only the loss of 4 wkts Barry managed a respectable 287-4.

Bowling has become a key asset to the Barry side & with Sam Hopkins, Joel Merrick & Lewis Davies all bowling a wicket maiden & Lawrence Walpole, Rhys Woolmer, Tomos Hubbard & Evan Wells also getting amongst the wickets. Fielding wise there was also a first time behind the stumps for both Evan & Rhys & the boys showed a clean pair of gloves & got in some fine practice, both Joshua Eady & Lewis Davies continuously threw themselves around the outfield with the latter taking a fine overhead catch. Creigiau finishing on 248 - 8

Result: Barry won by 29 runs

Man of the Match Joel 'stump to stump' Merrick 2 overs 1 wkt for 0 Runs. Well Done Lads

'We are the Champions', say Llantwit Major under-12s

Local taxi proprietor Andy Brown from Andy cars who recently sponsored the under-12s with new training kit. The side would also like to thank sponsors City Group Financial Advisors and Ill Vesuvio for their support.

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-12 footballers have been crowned champions of the Vale league.

They are currently unbeaten with 17 wins and a draw with just one game left to play this week.

They were also honoured to represent the Vale earlier this week and beat a very strong Merthyr and District select side at Jenner Park 2-0.

Barry tax consultant's big winner

BARRY tax consultant Helen Oakes saw her nine-year-old chestnut gelding, *Synisterdexter,* land the open maiden race at the Tredegar Farmers Hunt Point-To-Point steeplechases at Lower Machen last Saturday.

Trained at Merthyr Mawr by Jonathan Tudor, and ridden by Ogmore's Nick Williams, who was chalking-up his 101st winner between-the flags, *Synisterdexter*, who used to be trained under Rules at Llancarfan by Evan Williams, was in a handy position throughout and won by three lengths from the fast finishing Little Miss Monty ridden by Emily Farr.

Synisterdexter is qualified with the Llangeinor Hunt and another horse from Llangeinor to prove successful was Simon Jones's *Cutlass Silver* who, under horse dentist Jody Sole, took up the running two fences from home to win by three lengths from the Ross Harrier invader, *Blazing Scent*.

Beth Roberts's *Chestnut Annie* was an easy winner of the ladies' open race. Regular rider Isabel Tompsett made every post a winning one and came home a distance ahead of *David's Day*.

This was their 20th consecutive win between-the-flags and on dismounting Isabel said: "She's back to her best."

Another hunter chase before the season ends could be on the cards for this prolific winner who seemed to jump better the faster she went.

Mrs Carmen Goldsworthy took the members' race for a fifth time when her bay mare *On Oath*, under Paul Tolman, beat sole rival *Musical Sleuth* by 15 lengths. She had previously won this race with *Polly Pringle* (once) and *Red Neck* (three times).

No-one was more surprised when 11-year-old *Calies Old Vic* won the men's open race than owner/trainer Robert Rowsell. Ridden by John Norman, this ex-Irish horse, a 16-1 outsider, came with a good run two fences from the finish to beat *Grey Kid* by one-and-a-half lengths, with the favourite *Makena*, a winner of her last four starts, a further three lengths away in third.

A delighted Mr Rowsell, a former rider of note himself, said: "He's useless at home and as slow as a boat and this win came as a real surprise."

Mark Jackson, riding Doug Lloyd's *Jackson Town,* won the young horse maiden in good style, making nearly all the running and, despite making a mistake three jumps from the finish, won by two lengths from *Don't Be Short* ridden by young Robbie Llewellyn. Trained by Paul Davies at Bromyard, *Jackson Town* will now go to the Ascot Sales next month.

Although the distance of this race was only two-and-a-half miles, this promising six-year-old looks sure to stay three miles.

The South Wales & Monmouthshire Annual Point-To-Point Dinner will be held at the Holiday Inn, Newport,on July 3. Further details from Guy Lewis Tel: 07778 333779 or Dai Jones 07736 553011.

BRIAN LEE

Spring attracts visitors to the Brynhill club

Colin and Nick Harkin receiving their prizes from captain John Kirkpatrick.

ON a fine, breezy and occasionally cold day Brynhill Golf Club was the host to many south Wales club golfers who entered the Spring Open.

Some good scores were recorded in this four ball better ball competition, with a dozen or so in the 40s.

Third with 44 points were Andy Chick and Richey Jones – second were Tony Hewlett and A Williams with the same score but a better back nine, with the winners being Colin and Nick Harkin with an excellent 45 points.

Juliet's football skills recognised

JULIET NOTTINGHAM who plays for Dinas Powys Wolves under-8s has managed to play her way into the girls' development centre.

Juliet Nottingham

This is a Vale all girls centre which trains once a week on the astro pitch.

The girls also get released one day a term from school for extra sessions.

Juliet really has come on in the last 12 months working hard on her control and passing with Dinas Wolves.

Ladies Tuesday club

THE Llancarfan Ladies Tuesday Club has its next meeting on May 18, in the Village Hall at 7.45pm.

There will be a short Beetle Drive, and there will be on view 1930s-40s fashions followed by a 'hands on' making of a small presentation box. Non-members are as always welcome.

College athletes shine in local championships

BARRY College sport and fitness learners are celebrating success in Cardiff and the Vale sporting competitions.

Ayla Phillips (17), from Barry, came first in the Cardiff Schools Senior Cup shot put competition, setting a new record at 10.29m. Ayla also came first in the Cardiff Senior Interschool Championships hammer event.

Jamie Sexton, also 17 and from Barry, came first in the Cardiff Senior Interschool Championships in the 100m sprint.

Meanwhile, 18-year-old Jo Hamonda from Cardiff competed well in the shot put, and Kyle Garrison (18) from St Athan, took part in an impressive five events in the Cardiff Senior and Combined Schools championships – the 1,500m, 3,000m, javelin, hammer and triple jump.

ABOVE: Left to right: Jo Hamonda, Jamie Sexton (standing), and Kyle Garrison and Ayla Phillips (sitting).

Sport and fitness lecturer Tom Cornelius, said: "Jamie and Ayla will now go on to the counties championship in Brecon to represent Cardiff and Vale schools on July 3. They have achieved great results and all four of them are a credit to Barry College."

'Blast from the past'!

THIS picture shows, left to right, Jackie Savage with *Cariff Princess*; Dillwyn Thomas holding *Cefn Fancy*; and Denzil Jenkins with *Tom*, May 1960. Owing to printers' errors, *Cariff Princess* usually appeared on the point-to-point racecards as *Cardiff Princess*.
Picture courtesy of Jane Mathias of Llancarfan.

Bella haze wins again

***BELLA HAZE*, owned, bred and trained by Peterston-super-Ely farmer Phil Dando, landed the £15,209 Toteswinger Betting Handicap Hurdle at Uttoxeter last Saturday.**

Well ridden, as usual, by the promising seven-pound claimer David Prichard, *Bella Haze*, who just keeps winning, came in at odds of 12-1 to the delight of her many followers.

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06 56 S-MAX 2.0 TDCi Zetec 7-seat MPV. Full leather, alloys, a/c, cd. **£11995**

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04 54 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Dynamique 5-dr. Cd, pas, sunroof. **£4495**
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02 51 **VW Beetle 1.6 3-dr.** Met silver, 60k . . . **£5,475**
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08 08 **HONDA Jazz 1.4 5dr SE.** Blue met, **only 4,800 miles!**
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09 58 **VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2 5dr Hatch.** Black met, **only 2,600 miles**
New £10,475 **Ours £8,475** **Saving £2,000**
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New £12,975 **Ours £8,475** **Saving £4,500**
08 58 **RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 5dr.** Blue met, **only 3,000 miles!**
New £10,175 **Ours £7,975** **Saving £2,200**
06 56 **FORD Focus 1.6 Sport 5dr.** Blue met, **only 5,600 miles**
New £13,975 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £6,500**
06 56 **FORD C-Max 2.0 Zetec AUTO MPV.** Blue met, **only 4,500 miles**
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06 56 **FORD Fiesta 1.6 Style Climate AUTO.** Blue met, **only 3,700 miles**
New £11,475 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £4,000**
06 56 **RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Dynamique AUTO.** Gold met, **only 2,700 miles**
New £16,975 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £9,500**
58 09 **FORD Fusion 1.4 5dr Style AUTO.** Red met, **only 1,000 miles!**
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New £14,975 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £7,500**
06 56 **VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 5dr.** Met black, **only 2500 miles!**
New £10,975 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £4,000**
06 56 **RENAULT Clio 1.6 Expression AUTO 5dr.** Met blue, **only 1760 miles!**
New £12,475 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £5,500**
06 56 **NISSAN Micra 1.2 Sport 5dr.** Grey met, **only 2,500 miles**
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07 **07 BMW X3 2.5si SE Automatic** in platinum bronze metallic with sand beige leather interior. aluminum running boards, cd, front and rear parking sensors, heated seats, only 33.160 miles **£18,995**

06 **56 BMW 116i SE 5-dr** in sparkling graphite met with full Boston beige leather interior, comfort pack, cd, climate control, alloy wheels, reversing sensors, auxiliary I-pod connection, only 19,950 miles interior titanium trim, auto lights and auto wipers **£11,995**

06 **56 SAAB 9-3 1.9 Tid (150bhp) Vector 4-dr Saloon Automatic.** In steel grey with half leather seats, steering wheel mounted gear change, climate control, rear parking sensors, in dash multi CD, only 46,905 miles **£8,995**

06 **06 BMW X5 3.0D Automatic Le Mans Blue Sport Limited Edition.** In Le Mans blue with beige leather interior, panoramic sunroof, multi CD, sat nav, wood trim, automatic air con, only 65,270 miles **£21,995**

05 **05 BMW X5 3.0D Automatic Sport 5-Dr Station Wagon.** In sparkling graphite with black leather interior, 19" alloy wheels, air con, CD, front /rear parking sensors, privacy glass, only 52,290 miles **£17,995**

05 **05 MERCEDES BENZ M Class ML270 CDi Special Edition Automatic 5-Dr Station Wagon.** In black with grey suede interior, climate control, memory heated electric seat, roof rails, only 41,750 miles **£16,495**

04 **54 MERCEDES Benz CL500 5 litre 2-dr Auto coupe.** In tanzanite blue with java leather interior with BOSE sound system, AMG body styling, electric sunroof, only 48,245 miles **£19,995**

04 **04 PORSCHE Carrera 3.6 Convertible** in lapis blue with metropole leather, bose speaker upgrade, starlight navigation, phone system, cruise control, trip computer, heated seats, sports exhaust systemm, full Porsche service history, hard top, only 42,761 miles **£29,995**

04 **04 AUDI A4 Cabriolet 2.5 TDi Sport.** In brilliant blue with pearl dark blue Nappa leather interior, cliamte control, sat nav, heated front seats, service history, only 43,400 miles **£12,995**

02 **02 LEXUS GS300 SE Auto** in platinum ice silver with Pembroke black leather interior, electric memory seats, sunroof, alloy wheels, climate control, cruise control, heated seats,only 52,262 miles **£6,495**

SPORTS

09 **58 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 SRi Sporthatch.** In technical grey met with silver alpha interior, air con, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, rear spoiler, trip computer, only 26,770 miles **£10,995**

07 **57 HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SIII** in steel grey with full red leather interior, climate control, sunroof, cruise control, alloy wheels, only 23,600 miles **£10,495**

07 **07 SEAT Leon 2.0TDi DPF FR 5-dr Hatchback.** In black magic with FR grey interior, cruise control, air con, traction control system, ESP, only 36,598 miles **£13,495**

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04 **54 MITSUBISHI Shogun Sport 2.5 TD 5-Dr Station Wagon.** In black Mica with black leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, CD, immobiliser, only 54,530 miles **£8,995**

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04 **54 MG TF 1.8 135 Convertible.** In ignition blue with anthracite Sebring interior, alloy wheels, cd player, alarm and immobiliser only 27,100 miles **£4,995**

04 **54 HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SE 3-Dr Coupe.** In smart silver with black leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, cruise control, front fog lights, only 71,900 miles **£4,995**

04 **04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, climate control, alloys, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles **£5,995**

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03 **53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-door Convertible.** In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles **£4,495**

02 **02 MG ZS 2.5 180.** In anthracite black, with monaco ash interior with red inserts, alloy wheels, a/c, cd, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, alarm and immobiliser, only 62,310 miles **£2,995**

FAMILY

09 **09 FORD FOCUS 1.6 (100ps) Style** 5 door hatchback in Aquarius blue with dark flint interior, air con, front fog lights, colour coded bumpers, manufactures warranty only 5,760 miles **£9,995**

07 **57 CITROEN C3 1.4 HDi Cool 5-dr hatchback** in Arctic silver with Galand black interior, air con, cd, immobiliser, £35 a year road tax, one owner, only 37,845 miles **£6,995**

06 **56 TOYOTA Corolla T2 Colour Collection, 1.4 5-dr Hatchback.** In eclipse black with silver fleck interior, a/c, alloys, colour coded side skirts, audio controls on steering wheel, one owner, only 32,415 miles **£7,995**

06 **06 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi (130bhp) SIV Ghia 6-spd** in sea grey met with Aras interior, Sony cd, quickclear front screen, cruise control, climate control, alloy wheels, only 47,500 miles **£7,995**

05 **55 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique** in met platinum silver with ruche cloth interior, auto lights, auto wipers, air con, cd, clour coded bumpers, only 16,380 miles **£5,795**

05 **05 HONDA Civic 1.7 CDTi** in magnetic blue with hatch fabric interior, alloy wheels, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 55,130 miles **£6,495**

05 **05 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi (130bhp) LX 6-speed** in stardust silver with majestic interior, quick clear front screen, digital a/c, cruise control, trip computer, only 55,341 miles **£5,995**

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02 **51 TOYOTA Corolla 1.6 VVTi GLS Automatic 5-dr** in Atlantis blue metallic with hocney interior, alloy wheels, air con, sunroof, cd auto-changer, body coloured bumpers, only 34,790 miles **£3,495**

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GEM sport

All roads lead to Blackwood as..

BARRY WARM UP FOR TITLE DECIDER WITH EASY VICTORY OVER ST ALBANS

ON May 5, Barry RFC Firsts entertained St Albans in their penultimate league game of the season, knowing it was vital to gain a bonus point victory to maintain their title challenge.

With Barry defending their 100 per cent home record, the opposition saw the chance of taking a scalp and early decisions by the referee to penalise Barry unsettled the team, allowing the visitors the opportunity to take the lead; however, a simple penalty was missed.

The game soon settled down and home pressure forced a penalty which Chris Cummings duly despatched.

Barry continued to move the ball at every opportunity, and on 30 minutes, Tom Lee scored a fine try wide out, Cummings missing the conversion.

What followed was perceived by the majority of the crowd to be one of the finest tries of the season, as quick ball and hands gave Danny Ryan a chance from 40 yards out, and his speed and skill left the visiting defence floundering, giving Barry a 15 point lead.

The second half began where the first ended, the home team in charge up front and Rhys Hardy controlling the game from outside-half, getting the three-quarters moving at every opportunity.

With St Albans reduced to 14 men after a sin bin, Barry began to control all aspects of the game, and tries from George and Hardy gave Barry the required bonus point.

Barry were relishing the amount of ball the forwards were providing, and though St Albans were forced into passive scrums after an injury, they were not deterred, as Provis's' crossfield run yielded another try, closely followed by Cummings, who broke from 40 yards to score.

With the game won, Barry made changes, among them the ever-green Dai Griffiths, who as you would expect made an immediate impact.

Provis produced another score before Hardy finished the game in style with Barry's fifth try, for a final score of 55 points to nil.

Barry's final league game of the season is this Saturday, May 15, at third-placed Blackwood All Stars - to guarantee automatic promosion Barry must win with a bonus point.

All supporters are welcome, with a coach leaving the club at 1pm in addition to the team bus, which will be leaving at 12.30pm – good luck boys!

AJ

Romilly bowlers show room for improvement

BARRY Romilly Bowls Club travelled to the Wyndham Bowling Club at Nantymoel.

It turned out to be quite a journey, with one car getting lost en route.

Fortunately, one of the navigators used his mobile phone several times for directions, they then arrived at the venue half an hour late and the WBA match then took place.

Dave Wright's rink of R Cowling, C Collins and G Cogbill hit the ground running and went 13 – 1 ahead after seven ends.

Their opponents scored a five on the 10th end but could not prevent Dave's team surging on to win the rink 27 – 13.

Brian Foscolo's rink of H Iones, C Geen and M Gershenson also started well and were ahead 13 – 2 after seven ends. Their opponents then drew level on the 12th end and put the pressure on Romilly right to the end, where Romilly won the last end for a 19 – 19 draw.

Tony Freeman's rink of M Newman, R Blueit and G Eastment had a difficult start in their game and struggled on a green that was not at its best. They drew level 10 shots each on the 12th end, only for their opponents to then race away for a winning score of 21 – 14, together with the match aggregate 69 – 71.

Romilly 'A' side travelled to the Murch Bowling Club for their SVLA match on a damp chilly Saturday afternoon. They received a warm welcome as is usual at the Murch. They donned their wet suits and play commenced.

Vince McFarland's rink of W Hewitt, A Burge and A. Jones played a cracking game and led from start to finish with a winning score of 25 – 12.

Capt Peter Road's rink of D Ford, T Bloomfleld and the long awaited P Denley had the best result on the day by allowing their opponents just six ends.

Capt Peter was very pleased with his players who jelled well for a 25 – 7 win.

Bob Wyatt's rink of C Davies, K Westgate and K Clements lost this game to strong opponents who led from start to finish. Despite the pressure, Bob's team was more than pleased to score a very big seven on the 16th end, which was not a fluke, but seven good drawing shots. Rink result 16 – 23.

Bryn Gough's rink of D Bannister, R White and J Cole did not enjoy their game, with the front players finding the green conditions difficult in addition to a strong Murch team, who went on to win the rink 15 – 28. Aggregate score 81 – 70, Romilly win.

RH

Barry second XV see victory slip away from them

BARRY Second XV finished their season with a return to Reservoir Field to take on Cefn Coed.

Uncontested scrums were yet again the name of the game, as the away side failed to field a front row for either their first or second teams. Nonetheless, Barry started brightly, with the forwards producing quick ball for Joel Williams to distribute to the talented backs.

Grantley Harris produced a dominant display of ball carrying as he twice gained huge territory with barnstorming runs. The pressure told as the away side was penalised for an infringement and Adam Lee calmly stroked over his 10th penalty of the season.

Cefn Coed, however, used the uncontested scrummaging area to their advantage and soon were in their stride, and despite missing several shots at goal, managed to gain the lead through a well-worked try.

Nick Rolfe was once again giving a peerless display and produced countless turnovers, while Cieran Thomas, on his home debut, was rock solid in defence.

Once again, when the backs were given quick ball, Barry capitalised. Another superb run from Harris set up Luke Bounds, who raced through to score in the corner. Lee missed the conversion.

At half-time with a three-point lead, Barry were hoping to press home their advantage, but they came out of the traps slowly. Some poor decision making and good Cefn pressure pinned the home side in their own 22, and while the away kicker was unable to turn any of the penalty opportunities into points, it did produce a yellow card for Lee.

With the man advantage, the away side regained the lead with an unconverted try.

Barry came back strongly for the remainder of the half, and sniffed victory as Cefn Coed had two men sin-binned in quick succession. A long kick forward from a penalty by John Dimond was chased down by the substitute Ken Chow, who had seemingly grounded for a try, only for the referee to rule that it had gone dead.

The home side failed to build on the resultant scrum and continued to make uncharacteristic mistakes, relieving the pressure on the 13-man away side. The momentum was truly gone when the binned players returned, and ultimately it was a potential victory that had slipped from Barry's hands.

Team: Lee; Evans, Harris, D Williams, Bounds; J Williams, Dimond; Manley, Turnbull, Houldey; Tobin, Hitchcock; Case (captain), C Thomas, Rolfe.

Substitutes used: J Thomas, Chow, Hargodan. Man-of-the-match: Grantley Harris.

CADOXTON BOWLS REPORT

The cold stops play in Cardiff

TWO friendly matches were played to start the season at Cadoxton Bowls Club.

A win on Wednesday, April 21, on a lovely evening against Ely was followed with a match against Cardiff West End, which was curtailed half way through due to the cold.

On the same day, the 'A' side travelled to Romilly for a SVL match which they played to completion. It finished with two winning rinks each, but the hosts were successful with an aggregate score of 87 - 72.

BARRY ATHLETIC

Barry Athletic were the visitors in the opening game in the Munro Cup.

Although winning on just one rink with a tie on another, Cadoxton came out on top due to a fine win by 'Nunky' Brown's rink against opposition which included two former club members.

Scores: R Cole, G Davies, J Stewart, H Craven 15-15; M Curtis, D Evans, J Davies, D Kuhnell 18-22; P Ellis, R Doble, A Carpenter, G Brown 22-10; T Bishop, I Robertson, L Davies, G Jones 15-20; Total: 70-67.

CADOXTON MUNICIPAL

The first match in the 'Carruthers' brought little success. Once again it was Nunky's rink which brought the only victory.

The other three rinks lost by 7, 17 and 27 shots, resulting in this heavy defeat.

Scores: P Ellis, W Vaughan, A Carpenter, G Brown 18-16; T Bishop, D Evans, H Craven, D Kuhnell 18-25; G Davies, D Tuck, G Jones, A Hatcher 14-31; H Hellyar, L Cundliffe, J Davies, K Chedgzoy 7-34; Total: 57-106.

Park Lions invite for year-4s

ARE you in year-4, interested in playing football and having fun?

Park Lions FC are looking for new players of all abilities to join their existing team.

Anyone interested should contact Kim on 01446 738486.

New golf coach at Cottrell Park

Cottrell Park has a new golf professional in Simon Cox, who joins the team bringing 35 years of experience.

Simon Cox

Formerly from the South Wales Golf Centre in Barry, Simon started working from Cottrell Park at the beginning of May. He caters for all abilities and ages, from total beginners to single figure handicappers and is able to determine the areas of improvement required and tailor his teaching accordingly. Lessons are competitively priced, with discounts for series bookings and groups.

Simon said: "After a successful amateur career, including representing Wales and Great Britain on numerous occasions, and winning the Welsh Amateur Championship, I turned professional, playing on the European Tour and competing in tournaments world-wide, including Australia, New Zealand, South America and Africa.

"Among the highlights was representing Wales in the World Cup of golf in Thailand, I also played alongside eight Open champions in major events and won the Welsh Professional Championship on two occasions.

"A wrist injury curtailed my tournament-playing career and in 1981 I was appointed head-teaching professional at the Marriott St. Pierre Golf Resort. I subsequently taught at a golf centre in Swansea and The South Wales Golf Centre in Barry.

"My teaching clients have included Gareth Edwards and a very young Rhys Davies. I enjoy all aspects of teaching and have gained a reputation for detailed swing analysis.

"I look forward to the next challenge of my career, helping members and visitors to Cottrell Park fulfil their golfing potential."

For further details contact Cottrell Park Golf Resort on Tel: 01446 781781 or e-mail simon.cox@golfwithus.com

Barnes stars for Wanderers Seconds team

ON a cold and cloudy day at Hayes Point, Barry Wanderers 2nd XI, cheered on by some of the 1st XI after their game at Crumlin was cancelled, entertained Abercarn 2nds in a league fixture.

The game was delayed by some slight drizzle and the opposition turning up late. Skipper Barnes won the toss and elected to bat, hoping to post a large score. With a new opening partner Sandeep Banja to partner Barnes, the home side got off to a great start and posted 50 off 12 overs.

However, after missing a ball, Banja went walkabout and was run out by the quick thinking Abercarn first slip with Banja left stranded.

This brought Thomas to the wicket and he looked solid in his support of Barnes, who looked in great nick at the other end.

Thomas departed for 16, which was frustrating, having looked settled. Mike Denning stroked some glorious shots before getting a thick edge to the wicket-keeper for 22.

Ellis supported Barnes and looked to give the opener as much of the strike as possible. Barnes was bowled by Radford for a great knock of 75 playing a tired shot across the line after an excellent display of batting.

Ellis then lost several partners but the Wanderers achieved their objective of passing 200, finishing on 202 for 8 off their allocated 45 overs and gaining maximum batting points.

It was always going to be tough for Abercarn to chase more than 200 in damp and dreary conditions but D.Male looked to smash the ball around and only a great catch at mid off by Banja sent him packing.

This led to a batting collapse which was down to great bowling, loose shots and excellent catching.

Prasanth bowled exceptionally well for his four wickets, getting bounce off the pitch not seen for a number of years. He was ably supported by the reliable John Williams who bowled a lovely line and length.

Mike Ashton also bowled a neat and clever spell, leaving the middle order in tatters. There was some resistance from the tail but as the weather closed in, the Wanderers could smell victory and this was achieved as the last wicket fell at 58.

The Wanderers claimed maximum points and made amends for a below average performance from the previous week.

Special mention must go to Gareth Lanagan, Gerry Richards and Jane Richards for a superb effort on the tea.

Barry Wanderers 2nds: 202-8 off 45 overs (C.Barnes 75, M.Ellis 23not out, M.Denning 22)

Abercarn 2nds: 58 all out (D.Male) B.Pratbanth 4-10, M.Ashton 3-7, J.Williams 2-17

Barry Wanderers win by 143 runs. The SofaSofa man of the match was Chris Barnes.

AF

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

The GEM welcomes your match reports.
Email: ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***